



2024-2025 Student Course Catalog

GOA provides a positive, interactive, and intellectually rigorous environment for students to learn. We offer courses that connect students to topics they care about, and the opportunity to learn alongside a global network of peers as passionate and curious as they are.

We have identified the following six core competencies - the specific set of skills and habits of learning - that our students develop in practical, hands-on ways, no matter which GOA course they take:

1. Collaborate with people who don't share their location.
2. Communicate and empathize with people who have perspectives different from their own.
3. Curate and create content relevant to real-world issues.
4. Reflect on and take responsibility for their learning and that of others.
5. Organize their time and tasks to learn independently.
6. Leverage digital tools to support and show their learning.

To build these skills, GOA courses are:

- **Globally connected:** Even though our courses are online, students get to know their teachers and classmates by using technology to build relationships. Our small classes have students from many different schools, led by expert teachers. Students log in multiple times a week to engage in discussions, collaborate on projects, and share ideas.
- **Challenging:** GOA courses are designed to be as intellectually rigorous as any course at a home school. GOA courses are mostly asynchronous: students do not show up on certain days at certain times. Instead, teachers publish a calendar of activities, and within that framework, students work on their own schedules, gaining critical independent learning skills along the way. Students have a videoconference experience approximately every 10 days, more frequently in our intensive summer courses.
- **Relevant:** We want students to pursue their passions. Our courses offer practical, hands-on experience in how these ideas can be applied to the world outside of school. Students have a voice and choice in the work they do and the ideas they explore.

BOLLES-GLOBAL ONLINE ACADEMY COURSE INFORMATION

No GOA courses can be taken to fulfill a part of a core-course graduation requirement. They will count toward the 3 ½-credit elective requirement. GOA courses are considered the same as Bolles classes and thus students enrolled in GOA classes are held to the Bolles Honor Code.

ART, MEDIA, AND DESIGN

Course Title	Term
Architecture	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Arts Entrepreneurship	Semester 2
Computer Science II: Game Design & Development	Semester 2, Summer
Creative Nonfiction Writing	Semester 1, Summer
Fiction Writing	Semester 2, Summer
Filmmaking	Semester 1
Graphic Design	Semester 1, Semester 2

BUSINESS, ECONOMICS, & FINANCE

Course Title	Term
Arts Entrepreneurship	Semester 2
Business Problem Solving	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Capitalism: Past, Present, & Future	Semester 2
Entrepreneurship in a Global Context (for non-Global Studies Program students)	Semester 1, Semester 2
Introduction to Blockchain & Cryptocurrency	Semester 2
Introduction to Branding & Marketing	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Investing I	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Investing II	Semester 2
Macroeconomics	Semester 1, Semester 2
Microeconomics	Semester 1, Summer
Personal Finance	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer

COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Course Title	Term
Computer Science I: Computational Thinking	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python	Semester 2, Summer
Computer Science II: Game Design & Development	Semester 2, Summer
Computer Science II: Java	Semester 2, Summer
Cybersecurity	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence	Semester 1, Semester 2, Semester 2
Introduction to Blockchain & Cryptocurrency	Semester 2

GLOBAL STUDIES

Course Title	Term
Applying Philosophy to Modern Global Issues	Semester 1
Capitalism: Past, Present, & Future	Semester 2
Climate Action & Sustainability	Semester 1
Entrepreneurship in a Global Context (for non-Global Studies Program students)	Semester 1, Semester 2
Genocide & Human Rights	Semester 1, Summer
Global Health	Semester 1
International Relations	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Japanese Language Through Culture I-III	Yearlong

HEALTH SCIENCES

Course Title	Terms
Bioethics	Semester 1, Semester 2
Global Health	Semester 1
Health & Fitness	Semester 1, Summer
Medical Problem Solving I	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Medical Problem Solving II	Semester 1, Semester 2
Introduction to Organic Chemistry I	Semester 1
Introduction to Organic Chemistry II	Semester 2

JUSTICE, ETHICS, & HUMAN RIGHTS

Course Title	Term
Applying Philosophy to Global Issues	Semester 1
Bioethics	Semester 1, Semester 2
Discourse Across Differences	Semester 2
Gender & Society	Semester 2
Genocide & Human Rights	Semester 1, Summer
Prisons & Criminal Justice Systems	Semester 1, Semester 2
Race & Society	Semester 1
Religion & Society	Semester 2

MATHEMATICS & QUANTITATIVE REASONING

Course Title	Term
Data Visualization	Semester 1
Game Theory	Semester 1, Semester 2
Multivariable Calculus	Yearlong
Number Theory	Semester 1

PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE

Course Title	Term
Abnormal Psychology	Semester 1, Semester 2, Summer
Developmental Psychology	Semester 1, Semester 2
Neuropsychology	Semester 1, Semester 2
Positive Psychology	Semester 1
Social Psychology	Semester 1, Semester 2

ABNORMAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Prerequisite: Biology, Bolles Psychology or AP Psychology**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

This course provides students with a general introduction to the field of abnormal psychology from a western perspective while exploring the cultural assumptions within the field. Students examine the biopsychosocial aspects of what we consider abnormal while developing an understanding of the stigma often associated with psychological disorders. Through book study, videos, article reviews, and discussions, students consider how our increasingly global world influences mental health in diverse settings. In learning about the different areas of western abnormal psychology, students study the symptoms, diagnoses, and responses to several specific disorders such as anxiety, depression, eating disorders, or schizophrenia. Students develop an understanding of how challenging it can be to define “normal” as they begin to empathize with those struggling with mental distress. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to attend to their own mental well-being. The course culminates in an independent project where students showcase their learning with the goal of making an impact in their local communities.

APPLYING PHILOSOPHY TO MODERN GLOBAL ISSUES

- **Prerequisite: Contemporary World History**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

This is an applied philosophy course that connects pressing contemporary issues with broad-range philosophical ideas and controversies, drawn from multiple traditions and many centuries. Students use ideas from influential philosophers to examine how thinkers have applied reason successfully, and unsuccessfully, to many social and political issues across the world. In addition to introducing students to the work of philosophers as diverse as Socrates, Confucius, and Immanuel Kant, this course also aims to be richly interdisciplinary, incorporating models and methods from diverse fields including history, journalism, literary criticism, and media studies. Students learn to develop their own philosophy and then apply it to the ideological debates that surround efforts to improve their local and global communities.

ARCHITECTURE

- **Prerequisite: Completion of Fine Arts requirement (1 credit)**

In this course, students build an understanding of and apply skills in various aspects of architectural design. While gaining key insights into the roles of architectural analysis, materials, 3D design, and spatial awareness, students develop proficiency in architectural visual communication. The course begins by learning the basic elements of architectural design to help analyze and understand architectural solutions. Through digital and physical media,

students develop an understanding of the impact building materials have on design. At each stage of the course, students interact with peers from around the globe, learning and sharing how changes in materials, technology, and construction techniques lead to the evolution of contemporary architectural style and visual culture. The course culminates with a final project in which each aspiring architect has the opportunity to work toward a personal presentation for the GOA Catalyst

Exhibition. Students, through a variety of outcomes, present an architectural intervention that they have proposed as a solution to an identified need, one emanating from or focused within their own community. Throughout the course, students refer to the design process and use techniques to track, reflect, and evidence their understanding of architecture.

ARTS ENTREPRENEURSHIP

In this course, aspiring visual artists, designers, filmmakers, musicians, and other creatives learn how to find success in the dynamic fields of their choosing. Students learn about arts careers and organizations by attending virtual events and interviewing art practitioners, entrepreneurs, and administrators. Beyond exploring trajectories for improving their crafts, students build skills in networking and personal branding while examining case studies of a variety of artistic ventures — some highly successful and some with teachable flaws. Using real-world examples of professional and emerging creatives and arts organizations, students gain a better understanding of the passion and dedication it takes to have a successful creative career.

BIOETHICS

Ethics is the study of what one should do as an individual and as a member of society. Bioethics refers to the subset of this field that focuses on medicine, public health, and the life sciences. In this course, students explore contemporary, pressing issues in bioethics, including the “right to die,” policies around vaccination and organ transplantation, competence to consent to care, human experimentation and animal research, and genetic technologies. Through reading, writing, research, and discussion, students explore the fundamental concepts and questions in bioethics, deepen their understanding of biological concepts, strengthen their critical-reasoning skills, and learn to engage in respectful dialogue with people whose views may differ from their own. The course culminates with a student-driven exploration into a particular bioethical issue, recognizing the unique role that bioethics plays within the field of ethics.

BUSINESS PROBLEM SOLVING

How could climate change disrupt your production and supply chains or impact your consumer markets? Will tariffs help or hurt your business? How embedded is social media in your marketing plan? Is your company vulnerable to cybercrime? What 21st-century skills are you cultivating in your leadership team? Students in this course tackle real-world problems facing businesses large and small in today’s fast-changing global marketplace where radical reinvention is on the minds of many business leaders. Students work collaboratively and independently on case studies, exploring business issues through varied lenses including operations, marketing, human capital, finance and risk management as well as sustainability. As they are introduced to the concepts and practices of business, students identify, analyze, and propose solutions to

business problems, engaging in research of traditional and emerging industries, from established multinationals to startups.

CAPITALISM: PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In some circles, capitalism has been blamed for most of society's ills. In others, it has been credited with the grandest achievements in human history. In this course, students examine advocates from both circles, looking closely at the components of capitalism — and other systems of economic and social control — to decide what they think. As students build their own philosophies around capitalism, they work collaboratively and independently on case studies, exploring examples of capitalism around the world and in the world around us. Throughout the course, students immerse themselves in the history of various forms of capitalism, learning the specific components of capitalism. Students investigate how capitalism has impacted social, political, and economic systems around the world. The final project requires students to pull from historical and modern case studies to present a coherent portfolio of their thinking. Students also create a proposal for articulating shifts as we look to the future of capitalism.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL INEQUITY

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

Nowhere is the face of global inequality more obvious than in climate change, where stories of climate-driven tragedies and the populations hit hardest by these disasters surface in every news cycle. In this course, students interrogate the causes and effects of climate change, and the public policy debates surrounding it. In case studies, students research global, regional, and local policies and practices along with the choices of decision makers and what they mean to the populations they serve. Who benefits, who suffers, and how might we change this equation? Students collaborate in workshops with classmates to deepen their collective understanding of the complex issues surrounding climate change. Throughout the semester, students meet with professionals working in the field of climate change as well as build and curate a library of resources and share findings in varied media, engaging as both consumers and activists to increase knowledge and advocate for sustainable norms. Finally, students have the opportunity to reach a global audience by participating in GOA's Catalyst Exhibition in the spring, as they present their individual projects to spark change in local communities through well informed activism.

COMPUTER SCIENCE I: COMPUTATIONAL THINKING

- **This course (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite to all Computer Science II courses at GOA.**

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students utilize the Python programming language to read, analyze, and visualize data. understanding human behavior. It has applications not only in computer science but also myriad other fields of study. This introductory-level course focuses on thinking like a computer scientist, especially understanding how computer scientists define and solve problems. Students

begin the course by developing an understanding of what computer science is, how it can be used by people who are not programmers, and why it's a useful skill for all people to cultivate. Within this context, students are exposed to the power and limits of computational thinking. Students are introduced to entry-level programming constructs that help them apply their knowledge of computational thinking in practical ways. They learn how to read code and pseudocode as well as begin to develop strategies for debugging programs. By developing computational thinking and programming skills, students will have the core knowledge to define and solve problems in future computer science courses. While this course would be beneficial for any student without formal training as a programmer or computer scientist, it is intended for those with no programming experience.

COMPUTER SCIENCE II: ANALYZING DATA WITH PYTHON

- **Prerequisite: Computer Science I: Computational Thinking or its equivalent.**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students utilize the Python programming language to read, analyze, and visualize data. The course emphasizes using real-world datasets, which are often large, messy, and inconsistent. Because of the powerful data structures and clear syntax of Python, it is one of the most widely used programming languages in scientific computing. Students explore the multitude of practical applications of Python in fields like biology, engineering, and statistics.

COMPUTER SCIENCE II: GAME DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT

- **Prerequisites: Computer Science I: Computational Thinking or its equivalent.**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students design and develop games through hands-on practice. Comprised of a series of "game jams," the course asks students to solve problems and create content, developing the design and technical skills necessary to build their own games. The first month of the course is dedicated to understanding game design through game designer Jesse Schell's "lenses": different ways of looking at the same problem and answering questions that provide direction and refinement of a game's theme and structure. During this time, students also learn how to use Unity, a professional game development tool, and become familiar with the 2023-2024 GOA Course Catalog 11 methodologies of constructing a game using such assets as graphics, sounds, and effects, and controlling events and behavior within the game using the C# programming language. Throughout the remainder of the course, students work in teams to brainstorm and develop new games in response to a theme or challenge. Students develop their skills in communication, project and time management, and creative problem-solving while focusing on different aspects of asset creation, design, and coding.

COMPUTER SCIENCE II: JAVA

- **Prerequisite: Computer Science I: Computational Thinking or its equivalent**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

This course teaches students how to write programs in the Java programming language. Java is the backbone of many web applications, especially eCommerce and government sites. It is also the foundational code of the Android operating system and many tools of the financial

sector. Students learn the major syntactical elements of the Java language through object-oriented design. The emphasis in the course is on creating intelligent systems through the fundamentals of Computer Science. Students write working programs through short lab assignments and more extended projects that incorporate graphics and animation.

CREATIVE NONFICTION WRITING

• Prerequisite: Creative Writing Foundations • NCAA-Approved Course

Tell your own stories and the stories of the world around you! This course centers on the art of shaping real experiences into powerful narratives while growing foundational writing skills. Participants read, examine, and write diverse works of creative nonfiction including personal narratives, podcasts, opinion editorials, profile pieces, and more. Emphasizing process over product, this writing workshop provides opportunities to create in new ways. Students practice essential craft elements (e.g., voice, style, structure) while reflecting on stories from their own lives, communities, and interests. They also build a personalized library of inspiring mentor texts, consider opportunities for publication, and develop sustainable writing habits. Both in real-time video chats and online discussion spaces, students support one another intentionally. Feedback is an essential component of this course, and students gain experience in the workshop model, actively participating in a thriving, global writing community. Creative nonfiction has never been as popular as it is today; participants experience its relevance in their own lives as they collaboratively explore this dynamic genre.

CYBERSECURITY

Cyber criminals leverage technology and human behavior to attack our online security. This course explores the fundamentals of and vulnerabilities in the design of computers, networks, and the internet. Course content includes the basics of computer components, connectivity, virtualization, and hardening. Students learn about network design, Domain Name Services, and TCP/IP. They will understand switching, routing, and access control for internet devices, and how denial of service, spoofing, and flood attacks work. Basic programming introduced in the course will inform hashing strategies, while an introduction to ciphers and cryptography will show how shared-key encryption works for HTTPS and TLS traffic. Students also explore the fundamentals of data forensics and incident response protocols. The course includes analysis of current threats and best practice modeling for cyber defense, including password complexity, security, management, breach analysis, and hash cracking. Computational thinking and programming skills developed in this course will help students solve a variety of cybersecurity issues. There is no computer science prerequisite for this course, though students with some background will certainly find avenues to flex their knowledge.

DATA VISUALIZATION

• NCAA-Approved Course

Through today's fog of overwhelming data, visualizations provide meaning. This course trains students to collect, organize, interpret, and communicate massive amounts of information. Students will begin wrangling data into spreadsheets, learning the basic ways professionals translate information into comprehensible formats. They will explore charts, distinguishing

between effective and misleading visualizations. Employing principles from information graphics, graphic design, visual art, and cognitive science, students will then create their own stunning and informative visualizations. From spreadsheets to graphics, students in this course will practice the crucial skills of using data to decide, inform, and convince. There is no computer science, math or statistics prerequisite for this course, though students with backgrounds in those areas will certainly find avenues to flex their knowledge in this course.

DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Prerequisite: Biology, Bolles Psychology or AP Psychology • NCAA-Approved Course**

Over a few short years, most human beings grow from infants who are not even able to hold up their heads to become walking, talking, thinking people who are able to communicate using language, to understand complexities, to solve problems, and to engage in moral reasoning. This course is an introduction to the fascinating study of human growth and development focusing on the significant changes that occur physically, emotionally, cognitively, and socially from birth through adolescence. Students consider the big questions of heredity versus environment, stability versus change, and continuity versus discrete stages of change as they investigate language acquisition, sensorimotor development, thinking and learning, and personality and emotions. Through readings, observations, case studies, and application activities, students examine development from the perspectives of major theorists in the field from both Western and non- Western traditions.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

How does an entrepreneur think? What skills must entrepreneurs possess to remain competitive and relevant? What are some of the strategies that entrepreneurs apply to solve problems? In this experiential course, students develop an understanding of entrepreneurship in today's global market; employ innovation, design, and creative solutions for building a viable business model; and learn to develop, refine, and pitch a new startup. Units of study include business model canvas, customer development vs. design thinking, value proposition, customer segments, iterations and pivots, brand strategy and channels, and funding sources. Students use the business model canvas as a roadmap to building and developing their own team startup, a process that requires hypothesis testing, customer research conducted in hometown markets, product design, product iterations, and entrepreneur interviews. An online startup pitch by the student team to an entrepreneurial advisory committee is the culminating assessment. Additional student work includes research, journaling, interviews, peer collaboration, and a case study involving real-world consulting work for a current business.

FICTION WRITING

- **Prerequisite: Creative Writing Foundations • NCAA-Approved Course**

This course connects students interested in creative writing (primarily short fiction) and provides a space for supportive and constructive feedback. Students gain experience in the workshop model, learning how to effectively critique and discuss one another's writing in an online environment. In addition to developing skills as readers within a workshop setting,

students strive to develop their own writing identities through a variety of exercises. The course capitalizes on the geographic diversity of the students by eliciting stories that shed light on both the commonalities and differences of life experiences in different locations. Additionally, students read and discuss the work of authors from around the globe. Students' essential responsibilities are twofold: to engage in the class as readers and writers and to focus on their development as readers and writers. Both require participation in discussions of various formats within the course's online community, as well as dedicated time outside of class reading and providing feedback on one another's work as well as writing original pieces for the workshop.

FILMMAKING

- **Prerequisite: A Study in Film & Completion of Fine Arts requirement (1 credit)**

- **Students must have access to an HD video camera, tripod or other stabilizing equipment, as well as editing software such as iMovie, Premiere Pro, etc.** This course is for students interested in developing their skills as filmmakers and creative problem-solvers. It is also a forum for screening the work of their peers and providing constructive feedback for revisions and future projects, while helping develop critical-thinking skills. The course works from a set of specific exercises based on self-directed research and culminates in a series of short experimental films that challenge students on both a technical and creative level. Throughout, the course increasingly focuses on helping students express their personal outlooks and develop unique styles as filmmakers. Students review and reference short films online and discuss how they might find inspiration and apply what they find to their own works.

GAME THEORY

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students explore a branch of mathematics known as game theory, which uses mathematical models to inform decision making. There are many applications to everyday dilemmas and conflicts, many of which can be treated as mathematical games. Students consider significant global events from fields like diplomacy, political science, anthropology, philosophy, economics, and popular culture. They examine models of world conflicts and scheduling of professional athletic contests. Specific topics include two-person zero-sum games, two-person non-zero-sum games, sequential games, multiplayer games, linear optimization, and voting theory.

GENDER & SOCIETY

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

This course uses the concept of gender to examine a range of topics and disciplines that include feminism, gay and lesbian studies, women's studies, popular culture, and politics. Throughout the course, students examine the intersection of gender with other social identifiers: class, race, sexual orientation, culture, and ethnicity. Students read about, write about, and discuss gender issues as they simultaneously reflect on the ways that gender has manifested in and influenced their lives.

GENOCIDE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

• **NCAA-Approved Course**

Students in this course study several of the major 20th century genocides (Armenian, the Holocaust, Cambodian, and Rwandan), analyze the role of the international community in responding to and preventing further genocide (with particular attention to the Nuremberg tribunals), and examine current human rights crises around the world. Students read primary and secondary sources, participate in both synchronous and asynchronous discussions with classmates, write brief papers, read short novels, watch documentaries, and develop a human rights report card website about a nation of their choice.

GLOBAL HEALTH

• **Prerequisite: Biology • NCAA-Approved Course**

What makes people sick? What social and political factors lead to the health disparities we see both within our own communities and on a global scale? What are the biggest challenges in global health and how might they be met? Using an interdisciplinary approach to address these questions, this course improves students' health literacy through an examination of the most significant public health challenges facing today's global population. Topics addressed include the biology of infectious disease, the statistics and quantitative measures associated with health issues, the social determinants of health, and the role of organizations (public and private) in shaping the landscape of global health policy. Throughout the course, students use illness as a lens through which to critically examine such social issues as poverty, gender, and race. Student work includes analytical writing, research and curating sources around particular topics, readings and discussions exploring a variety of sources, and online presentations created both on their own and with peers.

GRAPHIC DESIGN

• **Prerequisite: Completion of Fine Arts requirement (1 credit)**

What makes a message persuasive and compelling? What helps audiences and viewers sort and make sense of information? This course explores the relationship between information and influence from a graphic design perspective. Using an integrated case study and design-based approach, this course aims to deepen students' design, visual, and information literacies. Students are empowered to design and prototype passion driven communication projects. Topics include principles of design and visual communication, infographics, digital search skills, networks and social media, persuasion and storytelling with multimedia, and social activism on the internet. Student work includes individual and collaborative group projects, graphic design, content curation, analytical and creative writing, peer review and critiques, and online presentations.

HEALTH & FITNESS

In this course, students take a comprehensive look at multiple factors that influence our bodies over a lifetime to maintain an active and healthy lifestyle. Students gain physical literacy by identifying, applying, analyzing, and evaluating components of fitness, exercise (FITT) principles, principles of training, phases of movement, and athletic performance. Students set personal improvement goals for both fitness and movement skills utilizing baseline testing and

performance analysis. Each week students complete a variety of physical exercises to target specific areas of fitness and movement to assist in achieving their goals. Reflection and feedback will inform students regarding their improvement. 2023-2024 GOA Course Catalog 14 The course culminates in a student-led project where students explore, synthesize, and implement an exercise or sport-specific topic that directly impacts their lives. Topics of exploration include but are not limited to: nutrition in sport, exercise psychology or mental health in sport, sport exploration for the lifetime, exercise science or sport-specific performance and biomechanics, careers in sport, and community-based improvement design and implementation.

HOW TO ARGUE WELL

• NCAA-Approved Course

This course, which teaches critical-thinking skills through argument mapping, offers students the opportunity to make a significant intellectual leap and improve not only their performance in school but also their ability to engage in productive arguments.

When your teachers push you to “be more specific” or ask, “Where is your evidence?” or say you need more “analysis,” they are highlighting your need to improve your critical thinking skills. Research has measured argument mapping as being a more effective learning tool than a semester at college when it comes to developing these skills, and it is this skill set that best predicts one’s performance in school and one’s performance on standardized tests, as well. Further, bad arguments are what give arguments a bad name. We live in a world of polarized communications where name-calling, emotion, and blurred lines between fact and fiction result in arguments based on extreme opinions that eclipse reason. The problem is not that we are arguing: the problem is that we do not know how to engage in arguments using logic and reasoning. These skills — the bedrock of critical thinking — give people the ability to argue thoughtfully and effectively. Good arguments are illuminating, generative, and compelling. This course teaches students how to master and deploy critical-thinking skills to think independently; improve academic performance across disciplines; create, assess, and engage thoughtfully in arguments; and successfully forge community in the process.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

• Prerequisite: Contemporary World History

Are China and the U.S. on a collision course for war? Can the Israelis and Palestinians find a two-state solution in the holy land? Will North Korea launch a nuclear weapon? Can India and Pakistan share the subcontinent in peace? These questions dominate global headlines and our daily news feeds. In this course, students go beyond soundbites and menacing headlines to explore the context, causes, and consequences of the most pressing global issues of our time. Through case studies, students explore the dynamics of international relations and the complex interplay of war and peace, conflict and cooperation, and security and human rights. Working with classmates from around the world, students also identify and model ways to prevent, mediate, and resolve some of the most pressing global conflicts.

INTRODUCTION TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Aspects of artificial intelligence permeate our lives and the algorithms power your favorite apps. How much do you really know about how AI works or how it is changing the world around us? This course explores the history of research into artificial general intelligence and the subsequent focus on the subfields of narrow AI: neural networks, machine learning and expert systems, deep learning, natural language processing, and machine vision and facial recognition. Students also learn how AI training datasets cause bias and focus on the ethics and principles of responsible AI: fairness, transparency and explainability, human centeredness, and privacy and security.

INTRODUCTION TO BLOCKCHAIN & CRYPTOCURRENCY

Much attention has been brought to the cryptocurrency space by the meteoric rise in the valuation of Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies. More recently, meme tokens have also grabbed the spotlight. When thinking about cryptocurrency, there is much more to consider than just market capitalization or coins named after canines. Introduction to Blockchain & Cryptocurrency is an entry level course for anyone excited by the space. This course explores how we arrived at the place we are now, and what the current and possible applications of crypto are. Students explore how markets in crypto operate, where they've received practical application, and where the space may head in the future through the lenses of creators, consumers, and governments. In addition, students take a deeper look at blockchain, the underlying technology that powers cryptocurrencies, and its many, far-reaching implications for the future of government, business, the arts, and more. Each lens represents a different way to view the complex and interrelated causes and outcomes of the changing crypto landscape. Using a variety of technologies and activities, students work individually and with peers to evaluate each lens. Students then analyze and explore how these technologies may shape and disrupt the future not only of the crypto space but of many current and future industries.

INTRODUCTION TO BRANDING & MARKETING

In our increasingly digitized world, we are bombarded by ads every day and presented with an immeasurable amount of content across all media platforms. It has become increasingly difficult for brands to break through the noise and capture the attention of their intended audience. In this course, students learn what it takes to build an effective brand that can authentically connect with consumers and create long-term brand equity. The course starts with introducing what a brand is and goes on to explore how different branding elements, such as visual identity, advertising strategy, and content marketing, as well as the intangible elements of the customer journey, come together to create a unique brand experience. By applying marketing theories, interviewing experts, and analyzing modern case studies, students develop and strengthen their competencies as brand strategists. Students also examine how responding to important ethical, social, and environmental issues can impact the brand's success. The course culminates in a final project where students collaborate to design an impactful brand campaign for a mission driven company, organization, or initiative.

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY I

• Prerequisite: Chemistry • NCAA-Approved Course

The purpose of the course is to teach organic chemistry content and to prepare students for organic chemistry at the collegiate level. This course dives into mechanisms and reaction types that make up all living things on this planet, carbon chemistry. From a content perspective, this course introduces the magnificent world of complex molecules, their properties, reactions, and applications. Understanding the properties, and appreciating the incredible organic world we live in, is the key to understanding how to address some of the most challenging problems that we face today and in the future. This course also helps students build their problem-solving and pattern-recognition skills so that when students take organic chemistry at the collegiate level they will be prepared to “speak” the language. At the collegiate level, introductory organic chemistry is oftentimes a challenging course for many students entering pre-health programs of study or science majors getting their prerequisites taken care of. Organic Chemistry I focuses on the “language of organic chemistry.” Students learn to predict electron movement for organic reactions. They focus on molecular structure (i.e. bond angles, shapes, polarity, and resonance), basic nomenclature, and prediction of electron movement. This course is the first in a two-part series. Organic Chemistry I is offered in Semester 1 and Organic Chemistry II is offered in Semester 2. While it is possible to take only this first course, we recommend signing up for both semester courses.

INTRODUCTION TO ORGANIC CHEMISTRY II

• Prerequisite: Chemistry • NCAA-Approved Course

In this course, students continue to explore the incredible world of carbon chemistry. Students add to their language skills as well as learn about additional functional groups and classes of organic molecules. They build on our understanding of reaction types and how to predict what can be made from certain precursors. The purpose of Introduction Organic Chemistry II is to foster an appreciation for the incredible organic world we live in. Students develop an understanding of how we can use this knowledge of the structure of molecules to address some of the most challenging problems that we face today and in the future. Some example questions that students may explore: What are some things that need to be considered when creating materials that can cause lasting issues for the health of aquatic and human life upon disposal? How can we manufacture new materials that can have applications to improve and extend life through medical technologies? How can we create better, more sustainable, energy sources that lead us away from our fossil fuel dependency? What characteristics will new synthetic materials need so that they don't need to be replaced as often (to create less waste etc.)? Students continue to hone their understanding of nomenclature, work with reaction types with a focus on polymerization and material science, and receive an introduction to spectroscopy. Introduction to Organic Chemistry II focuses on the important building and structures of organic molecules. Students learn to appreciate the interconnection and complexity of the organic world.

INVESTING I

In this course, students simulate the work of investors by working with the tools, theories, and decision-making practices that define smart investment. Students explore concepts in finance

and apply them to investment decisions in three primary contexts: portfolio management, venture capital, and social investing. After an introduction to theories about valuation and risk management, students simulate scenarios in which they must make decisions to grow an investment portfolio. They manage investments in stocks, bonds, and options to learn a range of strategies for increasing the value of their portfolios. In the second unit, students take the perspective of venture capital investors, analyzing startup companies and predicting their value before they become public. In the third unit, students examine case studies of investment funds that apply the tools of finance to power social change. Throughout the course, students learn from experts who have experience in identifying value and managing risk in global markets. They develop their own ideas about methods for weighing financial risks and benefits and leave this course not just with a simulated portfolio of investments, but the skills necessary to manage portfolios in the future.

INVESTING II

- **Prerequisite: Investing I**

In this course, students expand their knowledge of practices that define smart investment. They explore concepts in finance and apply them to investment decisions in four primary contexts: fixed-income investments, foreign exchange and crypto, commodities, and real estate. After an introduction to theories about behavioral finance, students simulate scenarios in which they must make decisions to add to their portfolio of equities. In the first unit, they learn how fixed-income assets like bonds fit into a larger portfolio to hedge risk in their portfolios. In the second unit, students examine forex trading and the cryptocurrency markets, a riskier and more volatile investment vehicle. In the third unit, students examine how commodities can be a part of a larger portfolio, but also how commodity prices might affect the larger economy. Finally, in the fourth unit, students learn about the array of strategies in real estate investing. Throughout the course, students learn from experts who have experience in identifying value and managing risk in global markets. They develop their own ideas about methods for taking calculated financial risks and build on their understanding from Investing I. They leave this course with a more nuanced view of their overall portfolio and the skills necessary to manage risk in the future.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE THROUGH LANGUAGE I

This course (or its equivalent) is a prerequisite to Japanese II and Japanese III at GOA.

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

This full-year course is a unique combination of Japanese culture and language, weaving cultural comparison with the study of basic Japanese language and grammar. While examining various cultural topics such as literature, art, lifestyle, and economy, students learn the basics of the Japanese writing system (Hiragana and Katakana), grammar, and vocabulary. Through varied synchronous and asynchronous assignments, including hands-on projects and face-to-face communications, students develop their speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. The cultural study and discussions are conducted in English, with topics alternating every two to three weeks. The ultimate goal of this course is to raise awareness and appreciation of different cultures through learning the basics of the Japanese language. The focus of this course is 60 percent on language and 40 percent on culture. This course is appropriate for beginner-level students.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE THROUGH LANGUAGE II

- **Prerequisite: Japanese Language Through Culture I or permission from the instructor**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

Through language learning, students in this course share their voices, cultivate global perspectives, and foster an appreciation for self and others. Students further develop the speaking, listening, writing, and reading skills introduced in Japanese Language Through Culture I. Each unit follows the IPA model (Integrated Performance Assessment), blending three modes of communication: interpretation of authentic material in Japanese, synchronous and asynchronous practice in speaking and writing, and oral and written presentations. Each unit focuses on one of the following cultural topics: design and expression, ecology, entertainment, East meets West, harmony, and nature. In addition, students have the opportunity to select and pursue topics of their own interest. Grammar topics cover the essential forms that are typically introduced in the second and third year of a high school Japanese program. By learning the dictionary form, nominalizer, TE form, TA form, NAI form, and noun modifier, students are able to add more complexity to their sentence construction. In doing so, they shift from forming simple sentences to communicating in coherent paragraphs. As online learners, students are expected to exhibit superb time management and communication skills, as well as take ownership of their learning. While grammar instruction is delivered through asynchronous work and face-to-face meetings, much of the course content is curated and created by students through their research and collaboration. The focus of this course is 60 percent on language and 40 percent on culture.

JAPANESE LANGUAGE THROUGH LANGUAGE III

- **Prerequisite: Japanese Language Through Culture II or permission from the instructor**
- **NCAA-Approved Course**

Students in Japanese III have mastered most of the conjugation patterns (TE/TA form, dictionary form, and NAI form) that are necessary to speak and write in complex structures. While advancing their grammatical knowledge, students compare and examine similar functions and their subtle differences. In speaking, students are allowed to speak in an informal/casual style with each other and with the teacher in order to solidify their control of the Plain Form. Interpersonal communications are done through face-to-face conversation and recorded messages. In reading and listening, students curate, share, and practice grasping the gist of authentic materials. Materials may include TV commercials, news, movies, children's books, online newspapers, and cooking recipes. In Semester 2, students participate in the GOA Catalyst Exhibition.

MACROECONOMICS

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

Macroeconomics is the study of economic units as a whole rather than of their individual components. The aggregate unit is usually a national economy and that is the focus of this course. Students learn to better understand how to measure national economic activity with concepts like gross domestic product, unemployment and inflation, and the strengths and weaknesses of these statistics. Students then study theoretical methods of influencing national economic activity with monetary and fiscal policy and learn about some of the controversy surrounding these policy tools. The advantages and disadvantages of international trade and of methods of setting exchange rates is also introduced. The course includes an individual student

investigation of a national economy other than their home country. Students identify their economic findings and present resolutions in their final report.

MEDICAL PROBLEM SOLVING I

- **Prerequisite: Biology • NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students collaboratively solve medical mystery cases, similar to the approach used in many medical schools. Students enhance their critical-thinking skills as they examine data, draw conclusions, diagnose, and identify appropriate treatment for patients. Students use problem-solving techniques in order to understand and appreciate relevant medical/biological facts as they confront the principles and practices of medicine. Students explore anatomy and physiology pertaining to medical scenarios and gain an understanding of the disease process, demographics of disease, and pharmacology. Additional learning experiences include studying current issues in health and medicine, interviewing a patient, and creating a new mystery case.

MEDICAL PROBLEM SOLVING II

- **Prerequisite: Biology • NCAA-Approved Course**

Medical Problem Solving II is an extension of the problem-based approach in Medical Problem Solving I. While collaborative examination of medical case studies remain at the center of the course, MPS II approaches medical cases through the perspectives of global medicine, medical ethics, and social justice. The course examines cases not only from around the world but also in students' local communities. Additionally, the course addresses the challenges patients face because of a lack of access to health care, often a result of systemic discrimination and inequity along with more general variability of health care resources in different parts of the world. All students in MPS II participate in the Catalyst Exhibition, a GOA-wide conference near the end of the semester where students from many GOA courses create and publish presentations on course-specific topics. For their projects, students use all of the lenses from the earlier parts of the course to choose and research a local topic of high interest. Further, their topics enable identifying a local medical problem, using local sources, and generating ideas for promoting change.

MICROECONOMICS

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students learn about how consumers and producers interact to form a market and then how and why the government may intervene in that market. Students deepen their understanding of basic microeconomic theory through class discussion and debate, problem solving, and written reflection. Students visit a local production site and write a report using the market principles they have learned. Economic ways of thinking about the world help them better understand their roles as consumers and workers, and someday, as voters and producers.

MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS

- **Prerequisite: Completion of AP Calculus BC with a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Exam.**

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

In this course, students learn to differentiate and integrate functions of several variables. They extend the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus to multiple dimensions and the course culminates in Green's, Stokes', and Gauss' Theorems. The course opens with a unit on vectors, which introduces students to this critical component of advanced calculus. They then move on to study partial derivatives, double and triple integrals, and vector calculus in both two and three dimensions. Students are expected to develop fluency with vector and matrix operations. Understanding parametric curves as a trajectory described by a position vector is an essential concept, which allows us to break free from one-dimensional calculus and investigate paths, velocities, and other applications of science that exist in three-dimensional space. Students study derivatives in multiple dimensions and use the ideas of the gradient and partial derivatives to explore optimization problems with multiple variables as well as consider constrained optimization problems using Lagrangians. After studying differentials in multiple dimensions, the course moves to integral calculus. Students use line and surface integrals to calculate physical quantities especially relevant to mechanics, electricity, and magnetism, such as work and flux. They employ volume integrals for calculations of mass and moments of inertia and conclude with the major theorems (Green's, Stokes', Gauss') of the course, applying each to some physical applications that commonly appear in calculus-based physics. Prerequisite: The equivalent of a college year of single variable calculus, including integration techniques, such as trigonometric substitution, integration by parts, and partial fractions. Completion of the AP Calculus BC curriculum with a score of 4 or 5 on the AP Exam would be considered adequate preparation.

NEUROPSYCHOLOGY

- **Prerequisite: Biology, Bolles Psychology or AP Psychology • NCAA-Approved Course**

Neuropsychology is the exploration of the neurological basis of behavior. Within this course, students learn about basic brain anatomy and function as well as cognitive and behavioral disorders from a neurobiological perspective. They do an in-depth analysis of neural communication with an emphasis on how environmental factors such as smartphones affect nervous system function, their own behaviors, and the behaviors of those around them. Students also have the opportunity to choose topics in neuropsychology to explore independently including Alzheimer's disease, addiction, neuroplasticity, and CTE and share their understanding with their peers in a variety of formats. The course concludes with a study of both contemporary and historic neuropsychological case studies and their applications to everyday life.

NUMBER THEORY

- **Prerequisite: A strong background in Precalculus and above, as well as a desire to do rigorous mathematics and proofs.**

- **NCAA-Approved Course**

Once thought of as the purest but least applicable part of mathematics, number theory is now by far the most commonly applied: every one of the millions of secure internet transmissions occurring each second is encrypted using ideas from number theory. This course covers the

fundamentals of this classical, elegant, yet supremely relevant subject. It provides a foundation for further study of number theory, but even more, it develops the skills of mathematical reasoning and proof in a concrete and intuitive way and is necessary preparation for any future course in upper-level college mathematics or theoretical computer science. Students progressively develop the tools needed to understand the RSA algorithm, the most common encryption scheme used worldwide. Along the way, they invent some encryption schemes of their own and discover how to play games using number theory. Students also get a taste of the history of the subject, which involves the most famous mathematicians from antiquity to the present day, and see parts of the story of Fermat's Last Theorem, a 350-year-old statement that was fully proven only 20 years ago. While most calculations are simple enough to do by hand, students sometimes use the computer to see how the fundamental ideas can be applied to the huge numbers needed for modern applications.

PERSONAL FINANCE

In this course, students learn financial responsibility and social consciousness. They examine a wide array of topics including personal budgeting, credit cards and credit scores, career and earning potential, insurance, real estate, financial investment, retirement savings, charitable giving, taxes, and other items related to personal finance. Students apply their understanding of these topics by simulating real-life financial circumstances and weighing the costs and benefits of their decisions. Throughout the course, students have the opportunity to learn from individuals with varying perspectives and expertise in numerous fields. By reflecting on their roles in the broader economy as both producers and consumers, students begin to consider how they can positively impact the world around them through their financial decisions.

POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

• Prerequisite: Biology, Bolles Psychology or AP Psychology • NCAA-Approved Course

What is a meaningful, happy, and fulfilling life? The focus of psychology has long been the study of human suffering, diagnosis, and pathology, but in recent years, however, positive psychologists have explored what's missing from the mental health equation, taking up research on topics such as love, creativity, humor, and mindfulness. In this course, students dive into what positive psychology research tells us about the formula for a meaningful life, the ingredients of fulfilling relationships, and changes that occur in the brain when inspired by music, visual art, physical activity, and more. They also seek out and lean on knowledge from positive psychology research and experts, such as Martin Seligman's well-being theory, Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi's idea of flow, and Angela Lee Duckworth's concept of grit. In exploring such theories and concepts, students imagine and create real-world measurements using themselves and willing peers and family members as research subjects. As part of the learning studio format of the course, students also imagine, research, design, and create projects that they share with a larger community. Throughout the development of these projects, students collaborate with each other and seek ways to make their work experiential and hands-on. Students leave the class with not only some answers to the question of what makes life meaningful, happy, and fulfilling, but also the inspiration to continue responding to this question for many years to come.

PRISONS AND THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEMS

• NCAA-Approved Course

How do societies balance individual freedoms with security? How do definitions of “crime” and “punishment” shift across jurisdictions and time periods? How do recent protests and discussions about racial biases and systemic racism inform our understanding of criminal law and its applications? Although the United States has been frequently cited as having the highest “mass incarceration” rate, other countries in the world have also been criticized for injustices in their criminal justice systems. In this course, students become familiar with the legal rules and institutions that determine who goes to prison and for how long. Along the way, students gain a concrete, practical understanding of legal systems while grappling with mass incarceration as a legal, ethical, and practical issue. To understand current views on crime and criminal punishments and to examine proposed systemic reforms, students immerse themselves in the different forms of rhetoric and media that brought the U.S. and other nations to our present. They read and analyze jury arguments, courtroom motions, news op-eds, judicial decisions, recent cases, and other forms of public persuasion that shape the outcomes of criminal defendants. The final project requires students to advocate for a major reform to a criminal justice system in a city, state, or country. Having developed research skills, students apply them to build an effective argument that includes a real-world solution.

RACE & SOCIETY

• NCAA-Approved Course

What is race? Is it something we’re born with? Is it an idea that society imposes on us? An identity we perform? A beneficial privilege? Does our own culture’s conception of race mirror those found in other parts of the world? These are just a few of the questions that students in this course explore together as they approach the concept of race as a social construct that shapes and is shaped by societies and cultures in very real ways. Throughout the course, students learn about the changing relationship between race and society across time and across cultures. Engaging with readings, films, and speakers from a variety of academic fields (history, sociology, anthropology, literature) students explore, research, reflect on, and discuss the complex set of relationships governing race and society.

RELIGION & SOCIETY

• NCAA-Approved Course

Religion is one of the most salient forces in contemporary society but is also one of the most misunderstood. What exactly is religion? How does religious identity inform the ways humans understand themselves and the world around them? How can increased levels of religious literacy help us become more effective civic agents in the world today? Students in this course conduct several deep dives into specific case studies in order to understand how religious identity intersects with various systems of power, including race, gender, class, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. By engaging with material from a variety of academic fields (history, sociology, anthropology, and psychology), students grapple with the complex ways in which society and religious identity relate to one another.

SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

- **Prerequisite: Biology, Bolles Psychology or AP Psychology**

Are you thinking and acting freely of your own accord, or is what you think, feel, and do a result of influences by the people around you? Social psychology is the scientific study of how and why the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others influences our thoughts, feelings, and behavior. The principles of social psychology help explain everything from why we stop at stop signs when there is no one around to why we buy certain products, why in some situations we help others and in some we don't, and what leads to more dramatic (and catastrophic) events such as mass suicides or extreme prejudice and discrimination. As students take up these topics and questions, they build and engage in a community of inquiry, aimed primarily at learning how to analyze human behavior through the lens of a social psychologist. Social Psychology invites students to explore, plan, investigate, experiment, and apply concepts of prejudice, persuasion, conformity, altruism, relationships and groups, and the self that bring the "social" to psychology. The course culminates in a public exhibition of a student designed investigation of a social psychological topic of their choice. This course uses a competency-based learning approach in which students build GOA core competencies that transcend the discipline and learn how to think like a social psychologist.

GOA SUMMER COURSES 2024 SUMMER 1: JUNE 17-AUGUST 2, 2024

GOA offers a number of summer courses in an intensive seven-week format. Students should expect to dedicate 10-12 hours per week. Course descriptions can be found above. Students register for the GOA Summer Courses on their own and submit payment to GOA directly. After completion of the summer course, students will receive a transcript from GOA that will be added to their academic record and sent to colleges when they apply.

Abnormal Psychology	Health & Fitness
Architecture	International Relations
Business Problem Solving	Introduction to Artificial Intelligence
Computer Science I: Computational Thinking	Introduction to Branding and Marketing
Comp. Sci. II: Analyzing Data with Python	Investing I
Comp. Sci. II: Game Design & Development	Medical Problem Solving I
Comp. Sci. II: Java	Microeconomics
Creative Nonfiction Writing	Personal Finance
Cybersecurity	Problem Solving with Engineering & Design <i>(This is the last summer this will be offered.)</i>

Fiction Writing	Religion & Society
Genocide & Human Rights	

* There is also a 2-week College Essay Workshop designed to help rising 12th grade students get a head start on the college application process.

NCAA & UC COURSE APPROVALS

UC APPROVAL

GOA's standing as a WASC accredited institution means that the entire course catalog is UC approved.

NCAA APPROVAL

The below GOA courses are NCAA-approved for 2023-2024. New courses may be added as approvals come in.

- Abnormal Psychology
- Applying Philosophy to Modern Global Issues
- Capitalism: Past, Present & Future
- Climate Change & Global Inequality
- Computer Science I: Computational Thinking
- Computer Science II: Analyzing Data with Python
- Computer Science II: Game Design & Development
- Computer Science II: Java
- Creative Nonfiction Writing
- Data Visualization
- Developmental Psychology
- Entrepreneurship in a Global Context
- Fiction Writing
- Game Theory
- Gender & Society
- Genocide & Human Rights
- Geometry
- Global Health
- Introduction to Organic Chemistry I-II
- Macroeconomics
- Medical Problem Solving I
- Medical Problem Solving II
- Microeconomics
- Multivariable Calculus
- Neuropsychology
- Number Theory
- Positive Psychology
- Precalculus
- Prisons & Criminal Justice Systems
- Problem Solving with Engineering & Design
- Race & Society
- Religion & Society