



Upper School Course Offerings 2025-26

The Mission of Thayer Academy is to inspire a diverse community of students to moral, intellectual, artistic, and physical excellence so that each may rise to honorable achievement and contribute to the common good.

Welcome to the 2025-26 Course Offerings catalog.

This curriculum guide contains all the information about Thayer Academy's Upper School academic program. Selecting courses is perhaps the most important aspect of designing the high school student experience. Be sure to pay close attention to Thayer Academy's graduation requirements (and NCAA eligibility requirements for aspiring Division I/II athletes). In any given academic year, elective courses may or may not be offered depending on student interest and registration sign-ups.

For planning purposes, this year's catalog contains five sections.

If students or parents/guardians have questions, please feel free to contact the student's advisor directly.

Section 1: The Academic Program and Graduation Requirements

This section describes the different levels of courses we offer, the course load required each semester, the credits awarded for courses, and graduation requirements. All students must meet the requirements listed in this section in order to receive a Thayer Academy Diploma unless they have received prior approval from the Upper School Dean of Students and the Assistant Head of School for Academics. (page 3)

Section 2: Highlighted Programs

Business & Entrepreneurship Program

Our new expanded Business & Entrepreneurship Program course offerings afford students exposure to a wide range of business leadership, finance, accounting, marketing and entrepreneurship topics. These elective courses are available to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

Global Engagement Program

Thayer Academy's Global Engagement Program includes the required 9th and 10th grade Common Good I and Common Good II courses and the Global Scholars Capstone Program. All of the courses foster a greater awareness of and engagement in important local and global issues and offer students the opportunity to develop action-oriented projects that make a positive impact in the greater Boston and broader world communities.

Independent Study Program

Independent Study offer students the opportunity to pursue a course study that is not offered by Thayer Academy. While immersing themselves in an independent study, students are able to explore an area of deep academic interest and develop a rigorous sequence of learning experiences that lead to a capstone project where the student can showcase the outcomes of their self-directed, learning experience. (pages 4-6)

Section 3: What's New in 2025-26?

This is a quick reference to anything new or different that we are offering in 2025-26. These items include new or re-introduced courses and an explanation of those courses. (pages 7-10)

Section 4: Course Descriptions

The descriptions and listings of every course we are offering in the Upper School in 2025-26 can be found in this section. Courses are listed by department and generally organized from ninth grade introductory courses to senior more advanced courses. At the end of this section, you can find a list of all of our course offerings. (pages 11-34)

Section 5: Upper School Academic Planning Guide

The Upper School Academic Planning Guide can be used to map out a multi-year academic plan. While students select courses for only one year at a time, this chart will help students see the big picture of their entire Upper School academic experience. It is helpful for students to work with their advisors, parents/guardians, grade deans, and/or college counselors as they use this guide. (page 35)

THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM

The Upper School academic program emphasizes the education of the whole student. Many courses are offered at various levels: an AP designation indicates an **Advanced Placement** college level course related to specific curricula developed by the College Board; **Honors** indicates an accelerated or advanced class; **no designation** indicates a competitive college preparatory class; and **Fundamentals** indicates a regularly paced college preparatory class. Students are scheduled in courses that best suit their backgrounds and abilities, and it is common for students to have an academic schedule that includes courses from different levels.

Credit values for courses depend upon the number of times a course meets per week and how many semesters a course runs. For example:

- 1 credit for courses that meet three times per week for a full year
- ½ credit for courses that meet one or two times per week for a full year
- ½ credit for courses that meet three times per week for one semester
- Thayer Academy does not award credits less than 0.5
- Credits earned at other institutions may be approved on an individual basis.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate from Thayer Academy, all students must successfully meet the requirements stated in each of the five areas cited below:

1. **Earned Credits Requirement:** To receive a diploma, a student must accumulate a minimum of 23.5 credits.
2. **Credit Distribution Requirement:** The following credit distribution is required:
 - a. 4 credits of English, with a minimum of one credit in English each year
 - b. 3 credits of History, including one year of World History and one year of United States History
 - c. 3 credits of Mathematics (typically Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry unless the student has placed out of one or more of these classes)
 - d. 3 credits of Science
 - e. 3 credits of World Languages (students are required to complete the third level of a language and should take three years of the same language in the Upper School)
 - f. 1 credit of Arts (1/2 of which is the ninth grade requirement, Ninth Grade Arts Rotation)
 - g. 3 credits of Electives
 - h. 1 credit of Global Engagement: The Common Good I (9) and The Common Good II (10)
 - i. 2 credits of Health & Wellness: Grade 9 Health & Wellness (9), Grade 10 Health & Wellness (10), Grade 11 Health & Wellness (11, fall); Grade 12 CPR Certification (12)
 - j. 0.5 credit of College Counseling Seminar (11, spring)
3. **Course Load Requirement:** Students must carry five core courses each semester (English, mathematics, science, history, world languages, and computer science). No more than two may be in the same discipline. If a student would like to take a sixth core course, they need prior approval from the appropriate Department Head and the Upper School Dean of Students.
4. **Afternoon Program Requirement:** Students must participate in school-sponsored afternoon program activities for two seasons each year. One of these seasons must be a physical activity.
5. **Senior Year Requirements:**
 - a. Students are required to be enrolled at Thayer Academy for their entire senior year.
 - b. Senior Independent Project: Seniors are required to successfully complete an approved independent project during the last four weeks of the spring semester. Projects must have an academic, career, or community service orientation, and all projects include a research component. Each student's project is monitored and supported by a Thayer faculty member.
 - c. Seniors must pass all courses in their senior year in order to graduate.

The Upper School Dean of Students and the Assistant Head of School for Academics must approve any deviation from these requirements.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM

Business Leadership Fundamentals: This full-year course offers a broad introduction to a range of core business concepts, principles, and practices that impact organizations. With a focus on practical and relevant applications, case studies, and projects, students will develop knowledge and skills across a variety of topics ranging from organizational structures, operations, and the business legal landscape to communications, emotional intelligence, ethics, economics, accounting, finance, and investments. An integrative approach connects these topics and contextualizes them within current organizational environments and business situations across various industries. *This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors and meets three times a week. Full-year, one credit*

Business of Sports & Entertainment: This full-year course explores the sports and entertainment industries (including all forms of digital media - movies/TV/streaming platforms/audio, video games, concerts, theme parks, college, professional, fantasy, and gambling), all of which have significant economic and social impacts across the globe. The course will explore a range of topics including: business models, consumer behavior, product development, licensing/sponsorship, marketing/advertising/communications, sales, cultural/ethical/legal considerations, and more. Through a series of case studies, projects, and guest and in-house presentations, students will develop and practice tools to think critically and creatively about these rapidly evolving industries. *This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors and meets three times a week. Full-year, one credit*

Entrepreneurship I: The world around us is shaped by makers, designers, and innovators. Everything you interact with was made by someone. In this course, you will learn to create something of value to contribute to the world. To be a successful entrepreneur, one must do the proper research to identify a good problem and then work to solve that problem through iteration. This full-year class will explore the fundamental elements of entrepreneurship through the design thinking process. *This class is open to sophomores, juniors and seniors. There will be an application process if there is high demand for this class. This course is Pass/Fail and meets one period a week. Full-year, 1/2 credit.*

Entrepreneurship II: Building on a strong foundation developed in Entrepreneurship I cultivating, researching, and evolving innovative ideas, this course will push students further into an understanding of what it takes to be a successful entrepreneur: doing the research to determine what a good and innovative product is, understanding what will actually sell, finding financial backers to help build a product, and exploring how to market a product so that it becomes financially viable. There will also be opportunities in this course to attend outside entrepreneurship conferences and to interact with leaders in this field. *This class is for seniors and there will be an application process. This course is Pass/Fail and meets one period a week. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Entrepreneurship I and approval of the Entrepreneurship faculty. Full-year, 1/2 credit.*

Entrepreneurship Incubator Program: This full-year course blends group instruction and guided, independent project work around developing entrepreneurial business ventures. Through the support of a lead teacher, scholars in residence, and industry mentors, students in this program will build on their design, planning, and/or early venture implementation work from Entrepreneurship I and/or II or other contexts. The course is meant to support students in their active quest to achieve major development milestones in all aspects of the launch of their entrepreneurial ventures and ideas. *This program is open to juniors and seniors, meets two times a week, and is Pass/Fail. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Finance & Accounting Essentials: This full-year course is designed to provide a foundational understanding of accounting and finance concepts, tools, practices, and ethics. The course will focus on practical, real-world applications to develop student understanding and facility with a range of financial transactions and analysis, critical in the business world. Using actual companies, students will demonstrate their acquired accounting abilities by completing business simulations and other projects throughout the year and developing experience in analysis and forecasting. *This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors and meets three times a week. Full-year, one credit*

Peer Leadership Fellowship - Honors: This full-year honors course offers students the unique opportunity to be the first group of students to work with industry-leading experts, including Dr. Lisa Damour and Dr. Timothy McCarthy and a team of peers to research, design and deliver a new pilot peer education program. This public health and leadership-focused program involves a brand new partnership between Thayer Academy and other private/public schools to create peer-led education programs in two content areas: health topics (particularly mental health) and civil discourse. Students will partner with the faculty director and our visiting experts to research, refine, and learn to effectively deliver content, manage in-person and virtual classroom spaces, and will in the spring semester teach classes for middle school students at Thayer and virtually at schools across Massachusetts. This course is supported by a two-year grant with the intention of the program being replicated and expanded across the state and beyond. *Space is limited and there will be an application process for the program. The program is open to juniors and seniors and meets three times a week. Full-year, one credit*

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Principles of Marketing: This full-year course will examine how to develop successful marketing strategies by recognizing, analyzing, and capitalizing on evolving economic, social, political, and technological landscapes. Through practical applications and projects, students will understand and practice market analysis, including the Four Ps (product, pricing, place, and promotion). Students will be introduced to the analytical tools and methods crucial to understanding the role of these variables in achieving marketing goals and reaching performance metrics. Students will learn how to develop and communicate value propositions and explore issues associated with: social media, marketing research and marketing analytics, buying behavior, market segmentation, branding, retailing, value-based pricing, advertising, sales, and other marketing topics as they are applied to the management of marketing goods and services. *This course is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors and meets three times a week. Full-year, one credit*

GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Starting the 2025-26 academic year, as part of our evolving global engagement curriculum work, the course sequence will be The Common Good I for all ninth graders and The Common Good II for all sophomores.

The Common Good I: This one-semester course helps students develop a strong vision of the common good, including ideals such as equality, opportunity, environmental sustainability, and social justice. It also introduces students to challenges we face as a school, a community, a region, a nation, and a world in achieving those ideals. During the course, we identify and examine problems, acknowledge those who promote solutions, and engage in problem-solving activities in our school and our communities. Students consider the many ways Thayer contributes to the common good and develop ways Thayer can do more and do better. The course concludes with a service-learning project with a focus on ethical leadership and community engagement. *This course is required for ninth graders. Semester-long, 1/2 credit*

The Common Good II: In today's polarized world, the ability to engage in meaningful and respectful dialogue is essential. This one-semester course challenges students to explore complex public issues while developing the skills necessary for civil discourse. With a focus on identity, ideology, and societal challenges, students will learn to navigate contentious conversations with empathy, confidence, and respect. Through structured discussions, case studies, and debate, students will practice active listening, critical thinking, and relationship-building across lines of difference. They will explore diverse perspectives, analyze pressing social issues, and develop strategies for maintaining dialogue in challenging moments. This course reinforces our school's commitment to relational learning, helping students engage thoughtfully with difficult topics while fostering understanding and connection. By the end of the course, students will be equipped to participate in productive discourse on the issues that matter to them and the world, preparing them to lead with insight, integrity, and respect. *This course is required for sophomores. Semester-long, 1/2 credit*

Global Scholars: This program promotes greater awareness of and engagement in global issues by combining interdisciplinary academic learning with applications to real-world experiences. Students will combine the following curricular and co-curricular elements in order to be recognized as Global Scholars. Courses with the GSP symbol are designated courses. 

Curricular Requirements:

Global Scholars Capstone I (senior year, Semester 1)

Global Scholars Capstone II (senior year, Semester 2)

These courses encourage students to consider the meaning of “global citizenship” as we explore the role of national, multinational, and non-governmental organizations and assess their efforts in the areas of global health, education, human rights, and economic development. Together we examine the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and evaluate the status of those rights in the world today; we connect with Thayer graduates and discuss their experiences as “global citizens;” we consider the limitations and the promise of NGOs as they set goals and try to improve our world; and with the support of the course teacher or another faculty mentor, students develop an independent project to be completed in the second semester and presented to the community in the spring. *Application required. Full-year; 1 credit*

Additional Coursework a minimum of 3.5 credits of Global Scholars Capstone designated courses.

These courses include English: Scene to Screen; History: Class Matters; Science: AP Environmental Science; World Languages: Hispanic History & Culture I and II, all advanced language levels IV, V, VI, AP, and Post-AP

Co-Curricular Requirements:

Active participation in a globally/culturally-based and/or a community service club or activity.

Attendance at school-sponsored globally-focused events.

Co-Curricular Strong Recommendation:

An international immersion and/or service experience. Students receiving financial aid may apply for financial support for school-sponsored trips.

INDEPENDENT STUDY PROGRAM

Independent Study: The purpose of Independent Study is to afford students the opportunity to pursue a course of study on a topic that has significant import in the development of their overall academic program. Independent Study courses are meant to enhance, not substitute for, regularly scheduled academic courses and are only offered to students who have exhausted the current offerings. We do not offer Independent Study in a course that is offered in the curriculum. In most cases, the Independent Study should be a sixth course, not an alternative to a fifth course. Students should discuss Independent Study ideas with faculty in the appropriate academic department. Students should identify a faculty sponsor with the expertise, interest, and time to support and supervise their study. Faculty are usually pleased, but are not obligated, to supervise an Independent Study. *Students must submit the Independent Study proposal to the relevant Department Head and Assistant Head of School for academics during the spring course planning process. This is Pass/Fail. Full-year; one credit or full-year 1/2 credit*

Independent Study - Honors: Students who wish to pursue an Independent Study - Honors are required to submit an application and to meet with the Assistant Head of School for Academics and their Independent Study advisor to discuss the rigor of the proposed course of study, nature of the capstone project, and the evaluation criteria that will be used to grade the student's performance. *Application required, this is graded. Full-year; one credit*

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HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

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ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS

Chorus: This course invites students of all skill levels to explore the art of vocal music. Through engaging rehearsals, students will develop vocal technique, music literacy, and performance skills while experiencing the joy of singing in a group. The repertoire spans diverse musical styles and cultures, from classical to contemporary, fostering an appreciation for global music traditions. Chorus members will showcase their progress through school concerts and community events, building teamwork, confidence, and a lifelong love for music. *No audition required. Full-year; 1/2 credit*

Acting & Directing for Theatre: This course offers students a comprehensive introduction to the world of theatre, blending the foundational skills of acting, directing, and technical theatre. Students will explore a variety of acting techniques through improvisation, scene study, and character development, learning how to bring scripts and emotions to life on stage. In addition to acting, the course delves into the essential skills of directing, where students will gain an understanding of how to lead a production, work with actors, and bring a vision to life. *Full-year; 1/2 credit*

Jazz Ensemble: These instrumental groups learn, play, and perform a wide range of jazz music. The course has an emphasis on both ensemble playing and improvisation skills. In addition, the course focuses on the elements of jazz, including harmony, rhythm, and syncopation. *Full-year; 1/2 credit.*

Rock Ensemble: These instrumental/vocal groups play and perform jazz, fusion, and rock-influenced styles of music. Students have input into the music that they learn and perform. Students learn basic chord theory, including arranging, improvised solos, and chord structure. *Full-year; 1/2 credit*

Technical Theatre: This dynamic, hands-on course offers students the skills and knowledge necessary to design, build, and manage the technical elements of a theatrical production. We will explore set design and construction, lighting, sound, and stage management. Students will have the opportunity to work on creating scenery for all school productions, gaining practical experience in a collaborative environment while developing an appreciation for the behind-the-scenes magic that makes theatre come to life. No prior theatre experience or building skills are required. *Full-year; 1/2 credit*

VISUAL ARTS

Sculpture I: In this course, students learn about the art elements of line, form, space, texture, light, color, scale, and the principles of design as they relate to creating art in three dimensions. The focus will be on exploring form, space, and volume, through a range of projects that allow the students to work in both realism and abstraction. The students will experiment with both additive and subtractive sculptural processes using traditional materials such as wire, clay, wood, and plaster as well as more contemporary materials such as found, recycled, natural, and even digital objects. Students will discuss the work of historic and contemporary artists; they will be evaluated on the quality of their completed sculptures, their participation in class discussions and individual/group critiques, and their ability to establish a creative process that clearly articulates their personal vision as artists. *Full-year; 1/2 credit*

Collaborative Design Lab II/III: Building upon the fundamentals learned in Collaborative Design Lab I, this intermediate course further develops students' skills in additive and subtractive manufacturing, woodworking, architecture, and structural engineering. Students engage in more complex challenges, requiring them to apply their knowledge in a variety of scenarios. Advanced concepts in form casting and 3D design are introduced, challenging students to think critically about their designs and the manufacturing processes required to bring their ideas to fruition. At this level, additional technical tools and CAD softwares are employed to hone a deeper understanding of design principles and automated fabrication techniques. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Film Production: More than mere entertainment, filmmaking offers a window into the world that can spark the imagination, inspire conversation, and evoke an understanding of the human condition. Students will explore the history of cinema by studying various genres and great filmmakers and will apply these concepts and techniques in the creation of their own projects. This course will expose students to the canon while also highlighting underrepresented artists and films from across the world. Practical skills will include operating a camera, scripting, designing sound and lighting, and editing. Students will be able to produce complete short films by the end of this course. *Prerequisite: Media Production or permission from instructors. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

The Art of Numbers: This course invites students to explore the deep connections between mathematics and artistic expression. Through topics like proportions and ratios, symmetry, wallpaper patterns, perspective drawing, and fractals, we'll uncover the mathematical structures that shape the world around us. Drawing inspiration from nature, ancient Greek friezes, and visionary artists like M.C. Escher and Sol LeWitt, students will create their own math-inspired artworks. Join us on a journey to discover the creative side of math! *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Visual Art II/III - Honors: Building upon the foundation established in Visual Art I - Honors, further advancing technical mastery, creativity, and conceptual thinking skills, students will refine their artistic voice through sustained studio practice as they pursue independent concentration-based projects aligned with their artistic vision. The continuation of their *Honors Art Journal* remains an essential component, serving not only as a space for research, experimentation, and idea development but also as a chronicle of the visual arts experience. A key focus of the course is the completion of a comprehensive portfolio suitable for college applications. Additionally, students will engage in a dynamic museum visit unit, selecting a local museum and collaboratively shaping a curriculum that integrates oral, written, and artistic interpretations of their shared experience. In the spring, students will work closely with the visual arts faculty to curate the Visual Art - Honors Exhibition, gaining hands-on experience in exhibition design and presentation. This course fosters independent thinking, technical excellence, and a deeper engagement with Thayer Academy's visual arts community. *Recommendation and application required. This is a graded course. Full-year, one credit*

ENGLISH


Creative Writing Workshop - Honors: Novelist Elena Ferrante once said, "Without the right words, without long practice in putting them together, nothing comes out alive and true." Are you a devoted writer looking for more time to focus on your craft? This English elective invites sophomore, junior, and senior writers to supplement their regular English coursework with an honors creative writing class. The course offers a collaborative, workshop-style experience where students will explore a wide range of genres and modes together—including creative nonfiction, short fiction, poetry, and playwriting. Writers will deepen their skills through consistent practice, feedback, revision, and reflection. This course is ideal for writers who are curious, open to critique, and eager to grow in a supportive community. *Application required, including a current English teacher's recommendation and a writing sample that demonstrates a student's commitment to the craft of writing. Full-year, one credit*

HISTORY

JUNIOR, AND SENIOR ELECTIVE COURSE

AP Psychology: This course introduces students to the field of psychology, which helps to explain why people think and act the way they do. Topics include: the biological basis of mental processes and behavior, cognition, development and learning, social psychology and personality, and mental and physical health. Students will also learn to connect psychological concepts and theories to real-life scenarios, interpret data, analyze psychological research studies, and make and support claims based on psychological research. *Full-year, one credit*

SENIOR FIRST SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Class Matters: This one-semester college-style seminar delves deeper into the historical complexities of class, gender, and race/ethnicity in the United States (within a global context) and the ways in which these topics have shaped policies, practices, and cultural norms. Features of this course include the opportunity to explore local historically significant sites in Massachusetts, archival materials, personal narratives, and historical documentation of moments of resistance, resilience, and progress. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit* 

History & Film: 1950s America: This first-semester course explores the rich intersection of history and cinema during one of America's most transformative decades: the 1950s. Students will delve into the cultural, political, and social dynamics of the post-war era. Through an analysis of iconic movies such as *High Noon* (1952), *Rear Window* (1954), *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), and *Some Like It Hot* (1959), the class will examine how the movie industry channeled and shaped the anxieties, aspirations, and values of mid-century America. Topics will include post-war prosperity and its discontents, the Cold War and fears of communism, the rise of suburban and teenage culture, the emerging Civil Rights Movement, and the shifts in family structures and gender roles. Students will learn to critically analyze films as both artistic works and historical documents to gain deeper insight into the complexities of this pivotal era in United States history. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

SENIOR SECOND SEMESTER ELECTIVES

History & Film: Parallel Screens: In this second-semester elective, students will explore the dynamic relationship between film history and American history, examining Hollywood's portrayal of national crises and the cultural zeitgeist. Specifically, the course pairs classic movies with contemporary movies to understand how different eras of cinema illuminate similar issues throughout U.S. history. By comparing works such as *Modern Times* (1936) with *The Florida Project* (2017), *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) with *Get Out* (2017), and *Thelma & Louise* (1991) with *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), students can appreciate how filmmakers from different generations use diverse genres to address recurring themes. Through screenings, discussions, and projects, the course will provide a grounding in film history and investigate the ways that narrative film reflects, interrogates, and interprets its times. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

WORLD LANGUAGE

Latin VI: The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a fuller understanding of the Latin language, including its vocabulary, syntax, and grammar through extensive reading of both adapted and unadapted Latin prose and poetry. Students read the literature of Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Vergil and Pliny as well as 1-2 Latin novellas related to an aspect of Greco-Roman mythology or Roman history/culture. To heighten understanding of this literature, students read novels in English, conduct research, and do creative projects. *Full-year, one credit*

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Grade 11 Health & Wellness: This course is loosely grounded in the Science of Well-being class taught at Yale University. The class is designed to provide students with a better understanding of the science of well-being and the actions that they can take to positively influence their own physical and emotional health and happiness. Upon completion of the course, students will have a better understanding of themselves and their values as well as the practices that influence their well-being such as mindfulness, sleep hygiene, gratitude rituals, positive psychology, and more. This course meets once a week in the fall semester. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ARTS

The Performing and Visual Arts are a fundamental part of the Thayer Academy experience, woven into the fabric of student life, alongside academics and athletics. We encourage young artists to examine the process of creation and expression from different perspectives, and to resist accepting the first, most obvious solution.

The curriculum helps students develop an understanding of process, its link to inventive thinking, creative problem solving, and finding multiple answers to complex questions. As students broaden their exploration, they produce work that aspires increasingly higher levels of aesthetic excellence. In the courses, students benefit from hands-on experience and are actively engaged as they develop new skills. *All courses are Pass/Fail.*

ART REQUIREMENT

Ninth Grade Arts Rotation: This yearlong, four-unit creative course forms the substructure of the arts curriculum. Students rotate through each section exploring one aspect of the arts: music, theater, visual arts, and 3D mixed media design. In music class, students use an ears-and-minds-open approach as they learn to analyze the construction of all modern forms of music. In theater class, students begin to train as actors through exploration of public speaking, voice, movement, sensory awareness, and improvisation. In visual arts class, students develop basic drawing and painting skills; learn compositional basics of line, form, value, color, texture, and spatial relationships; and use various painting and drawing tools and materials. In 3D mixed media design, students explore the principles of visual perception and the meaning of form, space, function, and structure as they relate to three-dimensional design. Students learn to use 3D printers, laser cutters, and other tools in this segment of the course. *This course is a ninth grade requirement. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

Dance Choreography: This course is focused on creating choreography and exploring a variety of choreographic techniques. The choreographic explorations will include group and solo projects; they may include collaborations with other departments. Performance is not required, but there are two performance opportunities with the fall and spring concerts. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Dance Techniques & Styles: This course offers an opportunity to explore skills in a focused way and to develop each dancer's specific technical needs and goals. We will spend time on the technique and history of various dance styles and will learn pieces of choreography that support technical development. Performance is not required, but there are two performance opportunities with the fall and spring concerts. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Acting & Directing for Theatre: This course offers students a comprehensive introduction to the world of theatre, blending the foundational skills of acting, directing, and technical theatre. Students will explore a variety of acting techniques through improvisation, scene study, and character development, learning how to bring scripts and emotions to life on stage. In addition to acting, the course delves into the essential skills of directing, where students will gain an understanding of how to lead a production, work with actors, and bring a vision to life. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Musical Theatre: This course will explore the genre of musical theatre from its origins through the modern age, following the interests of our students. In a studio-style atmosphere, we will build acting, singing, and movement skills together while also providing opportunities for personal development of musical repertoire. We welcome all students from first-timers just looking to become part of the Thayer Academy Theatre Arts community, as well as experienced performers at all levels. *Full-year, ½ credit*

Technical Theatre: This dynamic, hands-on course offers students the skills and knowledge necessary to design, build, and manage the technical elements of a theatrical production. We will explore set design and construction, lighting, sound, and stage management. Students will have the opportunity to work on creating scenery for all school productions, gaining practical experience in a collaborative environment while developing an appreciation for the behind-the-scenes magic that makes theatre come to life. No prior theatre experience or building skills are required. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Chorus: This course invites students of all skill levels to explore the art of vocal music. Through engaging rehearsals, students will develop vocal technique, music literacy, and performance skills while experiencing the joy of singing in a group. The repertoire spans diverse musical styles and cultures, from classical to contemporary, fostering an appreciation for global music traditions. Chorus members will showcase their progress through school concerts and community events, building teamwork, confidence, and a lifelong love for music. *No audition required. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Chamber Orchestra: Calling all string, woodwind, brass, and piano players, and percussionists! This orchestra experience is designed for students to learn and perform a variety of styles, from the traditional classical music of master composers like Bach and Beethoven to symphonic soundtracks. *No audition necessary. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Jazz Ensemble: These instrumental groups learn, play, and perform a wide range of jazz music. The course has an emphasis on both ensemble playing and improvisation skills. In addition, the course focuses on the elements of jazz, including harmony, rhythm, and syncopation. *Full-year, 1/2 credit.*

Rock Ensemble: These instrumental/vocal groups play and perform jazz, fusion, and rock-influenced styles of music. Students have input into the music that they learn and perform. Students learn basic chord theory, including arranging, improvised solos, and chord structure. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Private Lessons: Lessons in voice and most instruments, depending on the sign-up, can be arranged for individual students during their free time or after school. It is strongly recommended that private-lesson students are also members of one of the Thayer Academy music groups. *Fee applies. Full-year*

VISUAL ARTS & NEW MEDIA ELECTIVES

Painting & Drawing I, II, and III: These full-year courses includes a wide exploration of both drawing and painting methods and materials using real and imaginary subject matter. Students are introduced to varied techniques and processes of drawing and painting including composition, the elements and principles of design, the use of color, and pertinent aspects of art history and self-expression. As students progress, they are free to explore a more independent voice in both their choice of materials and subject matter. Media options include graphite, ink, charcoal, conte crayon, pastel, watercolor, and acrylics as well as a more in-depth exploration of mixed media. Our advanced mixed media studies offer in-depth exploration of techniques and new ways to see, use, and interpret found objects. Students create multi-directional compositions with a variety of materials, paint, images, found objects, and ink painting. Techniques include collage, drawing, painting, mixing, assemblage, cutting, and pasting. As students advance, they create a cohesive body of work that provides options for advanced visual art portfolio development. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Photography I: In this course, students learn fundamental photographic techniques, including use of 35mm digital SLR cameras in manual mode and the downloading, organizing, and editing of images. All assignments utilize Adobe Photoshop or Adobe Lightroom. Students learn basics of composition and become proficient in Adobe Lightroom by the end of the year. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Photography II: This course is a review of the technical aspects of photography as well as a development of students' ability to communicate an idea effectively. Use of Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Lightroom to manipulate images is a major component of this course. Students learn basic retouching techniques as well as advanced montaging skills. All assignments make use of digital cameras and Photoshop. *Prerequisite: Photography I, or departmental approval required. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Photography III: Third-year students are expected to have a working knowledge of digital SLR cameras, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Lightroom. The emphasis of this class is on the student's ability to develop a personal vision. Advanced Photoshop and Lightroom techniques are explored in order for students to create a cohesive body of work. *Prerequisite: Photography I and II, or departmental approval required. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Pottery I: An introduction to basic clay working: hand-building and wheel-throwing, decoration, glazing and firing techniques, introduction to basic glaze preparation. Stoneware, raku, and smoke firing are explored. Emphasis is on obtaining comfort and confidence with these techniques through the production of a body of work. Students experiment with functional, non-functional, and sculptural concepts. Pottery history and culture is presented through examples and discussion. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Pottery II/III: These courses are a continuation in the study of pottery: advanced techniques in clay working, introduction to basic glaze calculation and formulation. Alternative firing methods and experimental projects are introduced. Students may explore areas of their own choosing. A variety of clays and firing processes including raku, smoke firing, porcelain, and cone 10 reduction are available. Independent exploration is encouraged. Pottery history and culture is presented through examples and discussion. *Prerequisite: Pottery I and I/II, or departmental approval required. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Sculpture I: In this course, students learn about the art elements of line, form, space, texture, light, color, scale, and the principles of design as they relate to creating art in three dimensions. The focus will be on exploring form, space, and volume, through a range of projects that allow the students to work in both realism and abstraction. The students will experiment with both additive and subtractive sculptural processes using traditional materials such as wire, clay, wood, and plaster as well as more contemporary materials such as found, recycled, natural, and even digital objects. Students will discuss the work of historic and contemporary artists; they will be evaluated on the quality of their completed sculptures, their participation in class discussions and individual/group critiques, and their ability to establish a creative process that clearly articulates their personal vision as artists. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Collaborative Design Lab I: The course serves as an introduction to work in problem-solving and independent thinking. Students will delve into the fundamentals of the design thinking process, gaining exposure to concepts in conceptualization, drafting, additive and subtractive manufacturing, basic woodworking, and 3D design. Through a series of guided challenges, students will explore design from concept to completion with an emphasis on creating a solid foundation for those new to creative problem-solving. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Collaborative Design Lab II/III: Building upon the fundamentals learned in Collaborative Design Lab I, this intermediate course further develops students' skills in additive and subtractive manufacturing, woodworking, architecture, and structural engineering. Students engage in more complex challenges, requiring them to apply their knowledge in a variety of scenarios. Advanced concepts in form casting and 3D design are introduced, challenging students to think critically about their designs and the manufacturing processes required to bring their ideas to fruition. At this level, additional technical tools and CAD softwares are employed to hone a deeper understanding of design principles and automated fabrication techniques. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Media Production: This course provides opportunities for students to develop audio/video recording, editing, and processing skills. Students become facile with GarageBand and Adobe Premiere Pro software; track audio signal flow from microphone to P.A., monitor systems and recording software; become familiar with audio and video equipment use and basic care; and apply skills to projects including but not limited to: live recording, music videos, soundtracks, and editing for documentaries. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Film Production: More than mere entertainment, filmmaking offers a window into the world that can spark the imagination, inspire conversation, and evoke an understanding of the human condition. Students will explore the history of cinema by studying various genres and great filmmakers and will apply these concepts and techniques in the creation of their own projects. This course will expose students to the canon while also highlighting underrepresented artists and films from across the world. Practical skills will include operating a camera, scripting, designing sound and lighting, and editing. Students will be able to produce complete short films by the end of this course. *Prerequisite: Media Production or permission from instructors. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Music Production & Sound Design: In this course, students with a passion for music will learn the essential tools of music production in Thayer Academy's new recording facility. Students will learn about signal chains and microphone placement in order to capture sound. They will study the essential tools of mix engineering: equalization, compression, and reverb. Tracks produced in this course will be played for school meetings and have the opportunity to be a part of a class mixtape. Students will also study live looping, sound design for film, and interactive sound installation. No formal music training is required. *Prerequisite: Media Production or departmental approval required. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

The Art of Numbers: This course invites students to explore the deep connections between mathematics and artistic expression. Through topics like proportions and ratios, symmetry, wallpaper patterns, perspective drawing, and fractals, we'll uncover the mathematical structures that shape the world around us. Drawing inspiration from nature, ancient Greek friezes, and visionary artists like M.C. Escher and Sol LeWitt, students will create their own math-inspired artworks. Join us on a journey to discover the creative side of math! *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Yearbook Publication, Journalism & Design: In this class, students plan, design, create, and publish the *Black & Orange*, Thayer Academy's yearbook. Students are assigned responsibilities, designing page layouts using a software program similar to Adobe InDesign; writing stories and captions for photos; selecting photos; and interviewing students, teachers, coaches, staff, and administrators. Yearbook staff photographers attend school events and take photos for the publication. In this class, students gain journalistic and creative experience. Students also learn how to make editorial decisions and selections based on the yearbook's theme -- always seeking to report the life of the school as accurately as possible. The publication, which is essentially a record of a year in the life of our school, is added to Thayer Academy's archives. *Application required. Staff: meet two times a week. Editors: meet three times a week. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Visual Art I - Honors: This is an advanced-level course designed for students seeking to refine their artistic skills and develop a strong foundation in the visual arts. Students will explore various drawing and painting techniques using a range of media, including graphite, charcoal, pastel, ink, watercolor, and acrylics. Emphasis will be placed on observational drawing, composition, color theory, and creative problem-solving. Through structured projects and independent work, students will enhance their ability to express ideas visually while building sound technical proficiency. Art history and contemporary influences will be integrated to inspire artistic growth and critical thinking. Regular in-class critiques will offer self-reflection and practice in constructive feedback, encouraging both collaborative discussion and individual growth. Each student will maintain an *Honors Art Journal* throughout the year for practice, research, and idea generation. By the end of the course, students will have built a strong foundation for portfolio development, showcasing work that reflects their skills and personal artistic voice. *Recommendation and application required. This is a graded course. Full-year, one credit*

Visual Art II/III - Honors: Building upon the foundation established in Visual Art I - Honors, further advancing technical mastery, creativity, and conceptual thinking skills, students will refine their artistic voice through sustained studio practice as they pursue independent concentration-based projects aligned with their artistic vision. The continuation of their *Honors Art Journal* remains an essential component, serving not only as a space for research, experimentation, and idea development but also as a chronicle of the visual arts experience. A key focus of the course is the completion of a comprehensive portfolio suitable for college applications. Additionally, students will engage in a dynamic museum visit unit, selecting a local museum and collaboratively shaping a curriculum that integrates oral, written, and artistic interpretations of their shared experience. In the spring, students will work closely with the visual arts faculty to curate the Visual Art - Honors Exhibition, gaining hands-on experience in exhibition design and presentation. This course fosters independent thinking, technical excellence, and a deeper engagement with Thayer Academy's visual arts community. *Recommendation and application required. This is a graded course. Full-year, one credit*

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The computer science courses at Thayer focus on the study of computer programming and the theory and algorithmic approaches that form the core of programming. Three full-year computer programming classes are offered.

Programming I: Students with strong interest, and motivation, may enroll in this C++ course, which covers data types, logic development, loops, arrays, functions, and strings. Students learn how to write, comment, and debug code by creating programs of increasing complexity and length. Students also demonstrate their understanding and mastery of the material by taking quizzes and tests on paper. There are no midyear or final exams, but the course culminates with each student completing an individual final project. *Full-year, one credit*

AP Computer Science: This course follows the recommendations of the College Board. In the first semester, the main concepts taught in *Programming I* are extended using object-oriented programming (OOP) principles. The second semester of this course entails a deeper study of non-primitive data types and recursion along with particular attention to OOP design, ArrayLists, inheritance, and polymorphic behavior. In addition to regular course work, students are required to participate in American Computer Science League competitions. This course prepares students to take the AP Computer Science A exam. *Prerequisites: Programming I, departmental approval required. Full-year, one credit*

Data Structures - Honors: This full-year advanced Java course begins with a very intense review geared to the topics taught in the AP Computer Science course. The focus of this course is on advanced data structures: linked lists, stacks, queues, and binary trees. The course also explores data files, the major algorithms of sorting and searching, and culminates with an extensive study of command line programming using Perl. In addition to regular course work, students are required to participate in all contests of the American Computer Science League. *Prerequisites: Programming I, AP Computer Science, departmental approval required. Full-year, one credit*

ENGLISH

In an era of instant communication, we help students read critically, listen actively, speak confidently, and write fluently. We believe in language's power to effect real change, and we encourage students to take words — their own and others' — seriously.

Through reading and analyzing literature, students ponder the human condition and examine their place in the vast history of storytelling. Through guided instruction, consistent practice, and thoughtful revision, they hone their writing skills. Additionally, students engage in research and public speaking at every grade level.

Honors sections (English I - Honors, II - Honors, III - Honors, Senior Seminar Honors) are offered to ninth graders, sophomores, juniors and first-semester seniors with outstanding verbal abilities as evidenced by past performance and standardized test scores. Advanced placement sections — AP: English Literature & Composition and AP English Language & Composition — are offered in the junior year to qualified students. A number of the senior courses meet the requirements for the Global Scholars Program.

NINTH GRADE AND SOPHOMORE COURSES

English I and English I - Honors: During their ninth grade year, students examine fiction, drama, poetry, and memoir with a focus on complementary themes: personal identity and growing up. As they read texts both canonical and contemporary, freshmen encounter diverse characters who wrestle with enduring questions: to what extent do we control our hearts, our fates, and how others perceive us, especially as we enter adulthood? In an English I classroom, students might act out scenes from Shakespeare or discuss the impacts of implicit bias on a protagonist and on themselves. Ninth graders also spend significant time honing their analytical and creative writing skills, practicing public speaking, studying the rules of grammar and punctuation, and developing their vocabulary. *Full-year, one credit*

English II and English II - Honors: Storytelling drives the English II curriculum. Sophomores spend the first semester reading and writing short fiction. Following the guiding premise that nothing in fiction is an accident, students study authorial techniques and employ them in their own writing. Students write original pieces incorporating the elements of storytelling; some may be featured in *Voice* or included in the sophomore short story competition. In the second semester, the focus shifts from creating fiction to analyzing novels, plays, and poetry. Sophomores also continue to practice public speaking, build vocabulary, master grammar, and refine sentence structure. *Full-year, one credit*

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR ELECTIVE

Creative Writing Workshop - Honors: Novelist Elena Ferrante once said, “Without the right words, without long practice in putting them together, nothing comes out alive and true.” Are you a devoted writer looking for more time to focus on your craft? This English elective invites sophomore, junior, and senior writers to supplement their regular English coursework with an honors creative writing class. The course offers a collaborative, workshop-style experience where students will explore a wide range of genres and modes together—including creative nonfiction, short fiction, poetry, and playwriting. Writers will deepen their skills through consistent practice, feedback, revision, and reflection. This course is ideal for writers who are curious, open to critique, and eager to grow in a supportive community. *Application required, including a current English teacher's recommendation and a writing sample that demonstrates a student's commitment to the craft of writing. Full-year, one credit*

JUNIOR COURSES

American Masters I: Story & Style: In this course, students focus on the creative and controlled uses of language in poetry and prose through the close analysis of short, diverse excerpts from great American writers. As the semester progresses, students read full texts like *The Great Gatsby* and *Flight*. Writing assignments are, for the most part, imitative rather than analytical. The aim is for students to develop more flexibility, precision, and control in writing, as well as to acquire an appreciation of the elements of style and the rhetorical strategies authors use to achieve different effects. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

American Masters II: Story & Style: In this course, eleventh graders continue reading representative works of the best American writing. They explore an array of authors, genres, and periods to consider the full range of the American experience, from the beautiful to the brutal. As they encounter texts through a dynamic mix of class discussions, close-reading activities, and individual presentations, they gain a richer understanding of their national and individual identities. The course also emphasizes public speaking and analytical writing, including nuanced thesis statements, quotation integration, and thoughtful application of grammar and mechanics. *NOTE:* With additional outside study, some students who take American Masters I and II will be prepared to take the Advanced Placement Exam in Language & Composition. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

English III - Honors: This course focuses on communication, particularly spoken communication. The course begins with an overview of discourse in the contemporary world, using media outlets as case studies. The course then transitions into the study of rhetoric and persuasion. Students learn the tenants, strategies, and implications of rhetorical techniques and analyze great historical speeches. Once students understand the basics of speech, they study the craft of narrative in fiction and personal storytelling through technical readings and practice. These skills inform the rest of their time in the class. Students study works like *The Great Gatsby*, *Flight*, and *Inherit the Wind* and develop their voices as writers and speakers. Three major speeches comprise the second semester: the problem-solution, the personal narrative, and the reframing of an issue. The year's coursework and students' efforts culminate with a speech of their choosing, delivered entirely off book. By the end of English III - Honors, students should feel prepared and confident when speaking in front of peers, colleagues, and superiors, regardless of the challenge or controversy of the subject. *Full-year, one credit*

AP English: Literature & Composition: This course is designed for a select group of juniors who have already demonstrated a mature commitment to reading literature as well as a sophisticated mastery of grammar and composition. Through intense study of the elements of fiction, poetry, and drama, these students prepare for the AP Exam in Literature and Composition. They examine a broad spectrum of readings drawn from American and world literature - from the classics to the avant-garde - sharpen their skills of critical evaluation, and deepen their appreciation of the persuasive and artistic power of the written word. This course also requires a public speaking unit. *Full-year, one credit*

AP English: Language & Composition: This course prepares a select group of juniors for the AP Exam in Language and Composition. Students read a variety of fiction and nonfiction to develop their understanding and appreciation of how writers use style, literary devices, and rhetorical strategies to write persuasively. Assignments are energetic and varied. Students craft creative imitations of excerpts from diverse writers, analyze the Aristotelian appeals of television and print advertisements, and ponder Joan Didion's definition of "self-respect" as they write personal essays and evaluate the complex characters of *The Scarlet Letter*. They prepare for the May AP Exam with many in-class, AP-style reading quizzes and timed essays. Students build research skills as they craft their own AP synthesis essay prompts, finding and vetting appropriate sources, and share their final products with classmates in oral presentations. After the AP Exam, students continue their public speaking work, performing original poetry and entertaining each other with oral stories and dramatic recitations. *Full-year, one credit*

SENIOR FIRST SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Senior Seminar and Senior Seminar - Honors: In this seminar-style course, seniors examine diverse masterpieces of drama, fiction, and poetry to gain an enhanced appreciation of the role of great storytelling in humankind's search for meaning. In order to prepare for the rigors of college, students lead in literary discussions, engage in interdisciplinary research, and continue working on their public speaking skills during the Words That Changed The World unit. *All seniors, except for those enrolled in Advanced Composition, take this course. Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

Advanced Composition - Honors: Student writers learn best by writing for real audiences, and students in this honors course write and handle a variety of editing responsibilities for *Voice*, a news, lifestyle, and literary magazine serving the entire Thayer community. Selected students automatically have a staff position on the publication and continue to edit the magazine second semester after the course ends. Students are selected on the basis of their demonstrated writing skill, ability to handle the responsibility and pressures of publication time constraints, and their commitment to excellence in their work. They need to proofread accurately, write creatively, take constructive criticism in stride and offer it with tact, and be ready and willing to work some evenings when production deadlines loom. Student selection is based on a thorough application process, which includes a longform, magazine-specific application as well as the submission of both literary and artistic portfolios. *Throughout Semester 2, students enrolled in Voice need to reserve 30 minutes of their morning Flex Block for bi-monthly meetings. Semester 1, 1/2 credit*


SENIOR SECOND SEMESTER ELECTIVES

A Room of Their Own: Gender in Literature: When Virginia Woolf famously asserted in 1928 that “a woman must have money and a room of her own if she is to write fiction,” she turned the literary world upside down. In this course, our seminar circle will center authors whose work reveals something meaningful about how gender shapes individuals and society – as well as the act of authorship itself. Working in varied genres and writing from differing identities and historical moments, these authors could be considered “feminist” writers, for their work somehow calls for, or envisions, a world resistant to sexism, misogyny, and queerphobia. So what is “feminist literature,” and what kind of work can it do in the world? How does an understanding of gender also reveal the workings of other power structures in society? Students should prepare to write critically, personally, and creatively both in and out of class. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Art of Communication: This course is designed to empower students to become more honest, authentic, practiced, and brave communicators. Approximately one-third of our time together is devoted to lessons and group discussions on various aspects of communication such as how to: find your voice; use elements of rhetoric; make a persuasive argument; frame the debate; tell a powerful story; craft a clear message; write and deliver a speech; connect with diverse audiences; entertain different perspectives; express identities and values; listen deeply; deliver feedback; develop empathy; demonstrate compassion; and use humor and emotion. The other two-thirds of the course focus on practicing and receiving feedback on your communication skills. Students read selected articles and view selected videos; they then deliver prepared speeches and tell stories in person and on video, for which they receive customized and critical feedback from their peers and instructor. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Being Human: Literature on Living: This course is guided by the question, “What does it mean to be human?” Students will explore this question via reading and guided discussion of literature, philosophy, art, scientific concepts, psychology, and economic theory. Texts will include both fiction (short stories, poetry, excerpts from novels) and nonfiction, including excerpts from *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind* by Yuval Noah Harari and *Humankind: A Hopeful History* by Rutger Bregman. Assessments in this course will include both analytical and creative writing, multimedia projects, and presentations. This course will culminate in each student’s learning the essentials of design in service to creating a website portfolio of their coursework. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Rooting for the Anti-Hero: Villains and Antiheroes in Literature: In this course, students will read and analyze some of literature’s most fascinating villains and anti-heroes. What do these wicked and wayward characters reveal about human nature? In what ways are these characters more effective, compelling, or illuminating than benevolent heroes? Students will explore novels, short stories, poems, and examples from popular culture and music with a focus on the analysis of the antihero. Through written pieces, student-led discussions, and project-based learning, students will build writing, critical thinking, and discussion skills necessary for success in college-level English courses. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Scene to Screen: Like literature, film is an artistic medium with its own conventions, aesthetic values, and techniques. Its perspectives on and insight into the human condition are as varied as the films and directors themselves. In this class, we examine the techniques used by contemporary directors to manage the complexity of adapting the written word to film and study how this medium explores the depths of our emotions and the motivations for and consequences of our actions. Students use concepts of cinematic analysis such as genre, narrative structure, and point of view as an entryway into discussions of intent, impact, and audience response. Students are encouraged to formulate their own critical responses to the works and reflect on what these interpretations reveal, both personally and socially. The inclusion of international films and texts also reveals a perspective that transcends immediate culture and examines those global responsibilities and universal experiences we all share. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit* 

Science Fiction Literature: How Do We Get There?: The difference between fantasy and science fiction is that while fantasy exists in some separate, unreachable world, none of us will ever attend Hogwarts or travel to Middle Earth. Science fiction provides paths to different histories and futures. In this course, students will look at the roles of science, technology, and innovation in literature and consider their role in shaping our reality. Investigations will include worldbuilding and the rules of reality, theoretical and philosophical considerations of technology use, and scientific methodologies in literature. Students should expect to write creatively, make connections between STEM and humanities, conduct research independently, and imagine their versions of the future. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Stories We Tell: Ira Glass, host of the hit radio show *This American Life*, asserts that “great stories happen to those who can tell them.” This course will focus on the ins and outs of effective story-telling and story-producing. Students will engage with audio narratives and podcasts, films and documentaries, poetry and microfiction as they consider how best to tell the tales that matter most. They will interview professionals working “in the field,” edit their recordings in the new audio lab, and share their narrative work in the classroom and with the larger community. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Tiny Stories: A Writing and Reading Workshop: Wabaseemoong First Nation author Richard Wagamese has observed that, “All that we are is story.” In this course, students will examine “tiny” (or very short) narratives in various genres of literature and art, including modern poetry and spoken word poetry, short fiction, nonfiction, visual art, and film. Students will also participate in guided creative writing workshops with their peers and receive instruction in audio narrative skills. This course will culminate in each student creating a multimedia digital piece that showcases their skills in creative writing, audio interpretation, and visual narrative. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

HISTORY

The graduation requirement for the study of history is three years, which must include at least one year of World History and one year of United States History. During the ninth grade and sophomore year, students take a two-part World History sequence. These courses are designed to challenge students to uncover big ideas about the past and apply them to the present, allowing them to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required for empowered global citizenship in the 21st century. In the junior year, students generally take United States History. Electives for seniors explore particular historical subjects in depth, promote global understanding, and introduce social science concepts. With rare exceptions, students are not eligible to take these electives until they have completed United States History. World History courses offer honors sections, and United States History students can take AP history to prepare for the Advanced Placement Exam. Students are placed in these sections on the basis of past performance, standardized test scores, and teacher recommendations. AP courses for seniors are open to all interested students.

NINTH GRADE, SOPHOMORE, AND JUNIOR COURSES

World History I and World History I - Honors: In this course, students investigate developments from 1450 through the global crisis of World War I. We trace the rise and fall of empires across the world and consider the impacts of increased trade and cultural interaction during the first global age. Then, we explore the political, economic, and social revolutions of the late 18th through 19th centuries. Finally, we examine the causes and course of World War I. To end the year, students will immerse themselves in a model UN-style diplomacy simulation where they grapple with the difficulties of rebuilding the world in 1919. Along the way, students cultivate the reading, writing, and research skills necessary for success at the secondary level. *Full-year, one credit*

World History II and World History II - Honors: In this course, students trace the major political, economic, social, and cultural developments from World War I through the present in order to understand how our current world came to be. Particular attention is paid to the ways that global forces shaped the experience of each region of the world. To conclude the course, students participate in a model UN-style diplomacy simulation focused on the global climate crisis. This diplomacy project serves as a capstone that requires a synthesis of students’ knowledge of world history and the application of research, writing, and public speaking skills developed in the World History courses. *Full-year, one credit*

United States History and AP United States History: The major focus of this course is the development of the American nation as its population has diversified, its economy has matured, and its responsibilities have multiplied. The course emphasizes the analysis and interpretation of historical information. Students read primary documents, as well as a basic textbook. Class discussions, lectures, and films help students integrate and appreciate what they are reading; additionally, they learn to synthesize ideas and facts by writing a major research paper. The Advanced Placement curriculum emphasizes various interpretations of American history and requires students to complete a substantial amount of college-level reading and writing. *Full-year; one credit*

History of American Democracy - Honors: This honors course will grapple with the history of American democracy by investigating important moments of tension in our nation's past and imagining how we would have made difficult and important decisions if we had been alive at the time. Rigorous analysis of these difficult moments will help us build a robust understanding of the dilemmas of democracy and inform our response to issues of democracy today. The course will utilize case studies developed by Harvard Business School and effective participation in case-method discussions will be essential to success in the course. *This course fulfills the United States History requirement. Full-year; one credit*

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR ELECTIVE COURSE

Law & Society: The purpose of this class is twofold: first, to use historical and literary resources to explore the role of law in American society; and second, to prepare for participation in the annual statewide Mock Trial Competition sponsored by the Mass Bar Association. Readings, discussions, films, and other resources support the study of specific court cases in history and literature and provide an introduction to legal issues prominent at different times in American history. Additionally, the mock trial portion of the class offers a hands-on opportunity to learn about legal methods and the legal process. *This course does not fulfill the history graduation requirement. Full-year; 1/2 credit*

JUNIOR, AND SENIOR ELECTIVE COURSE


AP Psychology: This course introduces students to the field of psychology, which helps to explain why people think and act the way they do. Topics include: the biological basis of mental processes and behavior, cognition, development and learning, social psychology and personality, and mental and physical health. Students will also learn to connect psychological concepts and theories to real-life scenarios, interpret data, analyze psychological research studies, and make and support claims based on psychological research. *Full-year; one credit*

SENIOR YEARLONG ELECTIVES


AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics: Relying on textbook readings, MIT OpenCourseware lectures, and in-class discussion sessions, problem sets, and supplementary work, this course provides a true college-level introduction to the fields of microeconomics and macroeconomics. In microeconomics, we explore the fundamentals of supply and demand in a market economy by focusing on the factors influencing the decisions of consumers and producers, and we consider how those decisions play out under the conditions of perfect competition, oligopoly, and monopoly. In macroeconomics, we examine how principles of economics apply to an economic system as a whole. Topics in macroeconomics will include national income, economic performance measures, the financial sector, monetary policy, economic growth, economic inequality, and international economics. At the conclusion of this course, students will be prepared to take both the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics exams. *Prerequisites: successful completion of United States History and strong math skills. Full-year course; one credit*

AP United States Government & Politics: This course is a college-level introduction to politics and government in the United States and seeks to prepare students for active, informed participation in civic life. We examine the historical and philosophical origins of the U.S. Constitution and trace the ways that government institutions, laws, and political culture have changed over time as we grapple with modern political dilemmas. Students can expect to read and discuss a wide variety of "texts," from the Federalist Papers and Supreme Court decisions to public opinion polling data and cable news clips. We also learn to account for bias as we interpret data and develop evidence-based arguments about political issues of personal importance to each of us. *Full-year; one credit*

SENIOR FIRST SEMESTER ELECTIVES

Class Matters: This one-semester college-style seminar delves deeper into the historical complexities of class, gender, and race/ethnicity in the United States (within a global context) and the ways in which these topics have shaped policies, practices, and cultural norms. Features of this course include the opportunity to explore local historically significant sites in Massachusetts, archival materials, personal narratives, and historical documentation of moments of resistance, resilience, and progress. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit* 

Economics: By introducing basic economic theory and examining both micro and macro concepts, this course provides students with an understanding of the many ways economics affects people's lives. These theories are examined under the critical eye of prominent economic ideologies, an approach designed to give students a perspective on the differences of opinion that dominate current economic discussions regarding inflation, unemployment, military spending, and consumer protection. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*


Global Scholars Capstone I: This course is required for students interested in gaining recognition as a Thayer Academy Global Scholar. The course encourages students to consider the meaning of "global citizenship" as we explore the role of national, multinational, and non-governmental organizations and assess their efforts in the areas of global health, education, human rights, and economic development. Together we examine the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and evaluate the status of those rights in the world today; we connect with Thayer graduates and discuss their experiences as "global citizens;" we consider the limitations and the promise of NGOs as they set goals and try to improve our world; and with the support of the course teacher or another faculty mentor, students develop an independent project to be completed in the second semester and presented to the community in the spring. *Application required. Semester 1, 1/2 credit* 

History & Film: 1950s America: This first-semester course explores the rich intersection of history and cinema during one of America's most transformative decades: the 1950s. Students will delve into the cultural, political, and social dynamics of the post-war era. Through an analysis of iconic movies such as *High Noon* (1952), *Rear Window* (1954), *Rebel Without a Cause* (1955), *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1956), and *Some Like It Hot* (1959), the class will examine how the movie industry channeled and shaped the anxieties, aspirations, and values of mid-century America. Topics will include post-war prosperity and its discontents, the Cold War and fears of communism, the rise of suburban and teenage culture, the emerging Civil Rights Movement, and the shifts in family structures and gender roles. Students will learn to critically analyze films as both artistic works and historical documents to gain deeper insight into the complexities of this pivotal era in United States history. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

Introduction to Psychology: In this psychology course, we learn about some of the major areas of psychology (scientific research in psychology, learning and cognition, cognitive and social development over the lifespan, sleep and hypnosis, memory, motivation, personality, the treatment of psychological disorders) and topics in social psychology (attitudes, prejudice, conformity, obedience, attraction, antisocial behavior, prosocial behavior, etc.). Our exploration of the field relies on nightly reading assignments, discussion, and review of both current and classic research in the field. Students learn to be critical consumers of research studies and to understand the components involved in designing a good research study. If you are interested in gaining a more scientific and objective understanding of why we humans act the way we do, particularly in relationship to one another and in groups (the social context), this course will interest you. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

SENIOR SECOND SEMESTER ELECTIVES

African History and the Afro-American Experience: This course emphasizes the social, economic, and cultural history of Africa from ancient to modern time. The study of representative events and issues from selected areas of Africa enables students to develop an understanding of the complexities of African history and provides the background to study effectively the Afro-American experience. The latter portion of the course concentrates on nineteenth- and twentieth-century figures, events, and issues. Use is made of novels, biographies, monographs, and films. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Global Scholars Capstone II: This course is required for students interested in gaining recognition as a Thayer Academy Global Scholar. Building upon the work undertaken in the fall component of the course, and with the support of the course teacher or another faculty mentor, students develop an independent project to be completed in the second semester and presented to the community in the spring. *Application required. Semester 2, 1/2 credit* 

History & Film: Parallel Screens: In this second-semester elective, students will explore the dynamic relationship between film history and American history, examining Hollywood's portrayal of national crises and the cultural zeitgeist. Specifically, the course pairs classic movies with contemporary movies to understand how different eras of cinema illuminate similar issues throughout U.S. history. By comparing works such as *Modern Times* (1936) with *The Florida Project* (2017), *Night of the Living Dead* (1968) with *Get Out* (2017), and *Thelma & Louise* (1991) with *Mad Max: Fury Road* (2015), students can appreciate how filmmakers from different generations use diverse genres to address recurring themes. Through screenings, discussions, and projects, the course will provide a grounding in film history and investigate the ways that narrative film reflects, interrogates, and interprets its times. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Introduction to Psychology: In this psychology course, we learn about some of the major areas of psychology (scientific research in psychology, learning and cognition, cognitive and social development over the lifespan, sleep and hypnosis, memory, motivation, personality, the treatment of psychological disorders) and topics in social psychology (attitudes, prejudice, conformity, obedience, attraction, antisocial behavior, prosocial behavior, etc.). Our exploration of the field relies on nightly reading assignments, discussion, and review of both current and classic research in the field. Students learn to be critical consumers of research studies and to understand the components involved in designing a good research study. If you are interested in gaining a more scientific and objective understanding of why we humans act the way we do, particularly in relationship to one another and in groups (the social context), this course will interest you. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Sports & Society: In this course, students explore the relationship between sports and society in the United States. Students consider the importance of sports to local, regional, and national identity; the concepts of the hero, antihero, and role model; issues of racial and gender equality; positive and negative values promoted through sports; and connections between sports, religion, and politics. The course depends upon a wide range of sources, including excerpts, articles, feature films, documentaries, and works of fiction. *Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

MATHEMATICS

In order to graduate from Thayer Academy, all students must take a minimum of three years of mathematics in the Upper School, although most students take mathematics all four years. While there are many different paths a student can take in the Upper School, the two most common are as follows:

- Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus, Calculus
- Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus

Note: For those students who are enrolled in Algebra I as ninth graders, there are multiple avenues, if appropriate, to accelerate their math program in order to reach Calculus by senior year.

The Mathematics Department offers courses at different levels of rigor, including Advanced Placement, so that each student receives a course of study suited to their background, interest, and ability. There are significant differences in the presentation, pace, content, and amount of independent work required in the different levels of each course. Therefore, it is important that students (with the advice and recommendation of the Math Department) carefully select the proper level of each course. The use of graphing calculators is integrated into the curriculum, particularly in the PreCalculus and Calculus courses.

CORE COURSES

Algebra I and Algebra I Fundamentals: Algebra I emphasizes the solving of equations in the context of the real number line. The properties and the basic operations of rational numbers are introduced early in the curriculum, with an emphasis on simplifying expressions and solving linear equations. The graphing of linear equations and the solution of rational equations and systems of equations are also studied. If time permits, the solution of quadratic and radical equations is included. *Full-year, one credit*

Algebra II - Honors: Algebra II - Honors includes the study of linear equations in two and three variables, an introduction to functions, linear inequalities in two variables, polynomial operations, factoring of higher order polynomials, laws of exponents, radicals, solving quadratic equations and quadratic systems, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, and an introduction to sequences and series. *Prerequisite: Algebra I. Full-year, one credit*

Algebra II: Algebra II includes the study of linear equations in two and three variables, an introduction to functions, linear and quadratic functions, linear inequalities in two variables, polynomial operations, rational expressions and functions, factoring of higher order polynomials, laws of exponents, radicals, solving quadratic equations and quadratic systems, complex numbers, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, and an introduction to sequences and series. *Prerequisite: Algebra I. Full-year, one credit*

Algebra II Fundamentals: Algebra II Fundamentals includes the study of linear equations in two and three variables, systems of equations, matrices, an introduction to functions, quadratic functions, linear inequalities in one and two variables, absolute value equations and inequalities, laws of exponents, polynomial operations, factoring of higher order polynomials, rational expressions and equations, radical expressions and equations, solving quadratic equations, logarithms, and sequences and series. *This course is not recommended for those students who wish to take the PreCalculus Advanced course. Prerequisite: Algebra I or Algebra I Fundamentals. Full-year, one credit*

Geometry - Honors, Geometry, and Geometry Fundamentals: These courses provide a thorough study of the main topics of plane and solid Euclidean geometry. Three-dimensional concepts are included in the curriculum. These courses also emphasize the meaning and use of deductive reasoning and the formal requirements of writing a logical geometric proof. In addition, numerical application problems from such topics as areas and volumes, measurement of angles and arcs, and proportions are studied. *Prerequisites: Algebra I and II recommended. Full-year, one credit*

FURTHER COURSES

PreCalculus - Honors: This full-year course is intended for students who have demonstrated high aptitude and interest in mathematics and who are likely to study *AP Calculus BC* following this course. Since the concept of a function is crucial to the further study of mathematics, functions and their properties form the core curriculum. Polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions are examined with applications. Other topics include sequences and series, complex numbers and polar coordinates, vectors and matrices, combinatorics and probability, and an introduction to differential Calculus. Students are challenged with math competition level. *Prerequisites: Algebra II - Honors, Geometry - Honors, and/or departmental approval required. Full-year, one credit*

PreCalculus Advanced: This full-year course is intended for juniors who wish to enroll as a senior in either *AP Calculus AB* or *Calculus*. This course is also appropriate for seniors who plan to enroll in a demanding Calculus course in college. Polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions form the core of this course. The curriculum also includes a comprehensive study of trigonometry and further work with sequences and series. *Prerequisites: Algebra II - Honors or Algebra II ("B" or better in Algebra II), Geometry, and/or departmental approval required. Full-year, one credit*

PreCalculus: This full-year course is intended for students who may study introductory Calculus during their senior year or in college. The curriculum includes: linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions, a thorough introduction to right triangle and circle trigonometry, trigonometric equations, fundamental trigonometric identities, and operations on complex numbers. *Prerequisites: Algebra II or Algebra II Fundamentals, Geometry or Geometry Fundamental. Full-year, one credit*

Statistics & Quantitative Analysis: This full-year course develops the core functions of PreCalculus using the main principles of Statistics and personal finance. Linear, quadratic, polynomial, and exponential functions are utilized to build a consequential understanding of good vs. bad debt, credit scores, simple and compound interest, short- and long-term investing strategies, and retirement planning. Interspersed with the development of these functions is an introduction to the major concepts and tools of Statistics, elements which can be used for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. This course provides a head start to students who may be required to take a Statistics course in college. *Prerequisites: Algebra II or Algebra II Fundamentals, Geometry or Geometry Fundamentals. Full-year, one credit*

AP Statistics: This full-year course follows the recommendations of the College Board. It introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. First-semester topics include interpreting, summarizing, comparing, and exploring distributions of data and methods of data collection such as surveys, experiments, and observational study. Second-semester topics explore statistical inference through confidence intervals and tests of significance. Course supplements include newspaper and magazine articles. Students are challenged to think beyond the equations to justify, explain, interpret, and infer from data and subsequently communicate an appropriate and complete conclusion. This course prepares students to take the AP Statistics exam. *Prerequisites: Must have completed any level of PreCalculus or be concurrently enrolled in PreCalculus Advanced or higher. Must have strong reading/writing skills, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

Topics in Calculus: This full-year course is intended for students who have successfully completed Thayer's *PreCalculus* course. It does not prepare students for either of the Calculus AP exams. It is appropriate for those who plan to continue the study of Calculus in college and/or who may need this background for courses in applied sciences. This course starts with a focused review of the major functions and concepts of PreCalculus before branching into a standard Calculus curriculum. *Prerequisites: Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

Calculus: This full-year course is intended for students who have successfully completed the *PreCalculus Advanced* course. It does not prepare students for either of the Calculus AP exams. It is appropriate for those who plan to continue the study of Calculus in college and/or who may need this background for courses in applied sciences. The curriculum explores the fundamental concepts of Calculus, including functions, limits and continuity, differentiation, and integration. Applications such as curve sketching, optimization, and related rates are introduced along with theoretical results such as the Mean Value Theorem and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. *Prerequisites: Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus Advanced, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

AP Calculus AB: This course follows the recommendations of the College Board. The ideas of intervals, neighborhoods, functions, and limits are carefully explored leading to rigorous development of the standard differentiation formulas. Through applications of derivatives to problems in maxima and minima, the student gains experience in the power of Calculus. This course prepares students to take the AP Calculus AB Exam. *Prerequisites: Algebra II, Geometry, PreCalculus - Honors or PreCalculus Advanced, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

AP Calculus BC: This course follows the recommendations of the College Board. This course covers all of the topics taught in the *AP Calculus AB* course as well as the following additional topics: parametric, polar and vector functions (and their derivatives), slope fields, Euler's method, convergence of improper integrals and series, applications of integrals, and Taylor and Maclaurin series. This course prepares students to take the AP Calculus BC exam. *Prerequisites: PreCalculus - Honors, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

Linear Algebra & Proof - Honors: This course is intended for students who have successfully completed an AP Calculus course. Taught at an undergraduate college level, this full-year course serves as a robust introduction to Linear Algebra, with supplemental instruction geared towards teaching students how to make the leap from computational thinking to mathematical proof. Topics include matrices, vector spaces, eigenvalues and eigenvectors, linear transformations, logic, set theory, and techniques of proof. *Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC or AB, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

Multivariable Calculus - Honors: This course is intended for students who have successfully completed *AP Calculus BC*. Taught at an undergraduate college level, this full-year course provides a thorough study of the calculus of functions of several variables. Topics include lines, planes and surfaces in \mathbf{R}^3 , vector-valued functions and TNB frame, partial differentiation, Clairaut's Theorem, gradients, Lagrange multipliers, cylindrical and spherical coordinates, double and triple integrals, and applications. The course continues with vector fields, line integrals, surface integrals, Green's Theorem, Stokes' Theorem, and the Divergence Theorem. An introduction to Linear Algebra may also be included as time permits. *Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

SCIENCE

All students are required to take three years of science. The program of studies is designed to offer an organized sequence of experiences that will help students develop an understanding and appreciation of the physical world of which they are a part. Full-year courses are offered in Integrated Science, Biology, and Chemistry at different levels of difficulty so that each student receives a course of study that is commensurate with that student's background, ability, and interest. Advanced Placement courses in Biology, Chemistry, Environmental Science, and Physics are offered for students with a strong interest and ability in science, and electives are offered in interdisciplinary areas.

NINTH GRADE AND SOPHOMORE COURSES

Integrated Science I: This course introduces ninth grade students to concepts in science with an emphasis on hands-on projects and data analysis through a theme-based approach. Topics covered are in biology, physics, and chemistry. It is a skill-building course that is the introduction to the laboratory sciences. *Full-year, one credit*

Integrated Science I - Quantitative: This course introduces ninth grade students to concepts in science with an emphasis on hands-on projects and data analysis through a theme-based approach. Topics covered are in biology, physics, and chemistry. It is a skill-building course that is the introduction to the laboratory sciences. It is more mathematically rigorous and goes at a faster pace than the Integrated Science I course. *Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment Algebra II. Full-year, one credit*

Integrated Science II: This course is a continuation of Integrated Science I. Students work with scientific concepts through a theme-based approach. Emphasis is on modeling and data analysis. It is an application of the skills of scientific inquiry. *Full-year, one credit*

Integrated Science II - Honors: This course is a continuation of Integrated Science I. Students work with scientific concepts through a theme-based approach. Emphasis is on modeling and data analysis. It is an application of the skills of scientific inquiry. It is more mathematically rigorous and goes at a faster pace than the Integrated Science II course. *Prerequisite: departmental approval required. Full-year, one credit*

JUNIOR AND SENIOR COURSES


Biology: This course is designed to meet the needs of college preparatory work in biology and acquaint students with the diverse world of living organisms and their interrelation. The course combines lectures, demonstrations, and weekly laboratory work. *Prerequisite: Algebra II. Full-year, one credit*

Quantitative Chemistry: This course offers a rigorous college preparatory background in chemistry. The emphasis is on a thorough introduction to inorganic chemistry with a mathematical description. Lectures and discussion sessions are supplemented with laboratory exercises and demonstrations. *Prerequisite: Algebra II. Full-year, one credit*

Physics: This course introduces students to the basic concepts in physics. Although introduced conceptually, this course is mathematically intensive. Students study simple harmonic motion, waves, sound, light, geometric optics, electricity and magnetism, and mechanics. The course consists of lectures, class demonstrations, and weekly laboratory exercises. *Prerequisite: Algebra II. Full-year, one credit*

AP Biology: This course covers the topics in the AP curriculum and includes advanced studies of biochemistry, cell structure and function, cellular energy, genetics with a strong emphasis on the molecular biology of the gene, evolution, and taxonomic classification. This class prepares students for the AP Exam in Biology in May. Students are expected to take this exam as the culmination of the course. Some summer preparation is expected as well. *Full-year, one credit*

AP Chemistry: This full-year course covers the topics in the AP curriculum and prepares students for the AP Exam in May. Topics include basic atomic structure with quantum theory of the atom, chemical reactions, thermochemistry molecular geometry, reaction types - acid/base, oxidation/reduction, precipitations - stoichiometry and equilibrium, kinetics, and thermodynamics. Students are expected to take the AP Exam in Chemistry as the culmination of the course. Some summer preparation is expected as well. *Full-year, one credit*

AP Environmental Science: Serious environmental problems face the next generation of decision-makers and will probably force us to make drastic changes in the decades to come. The goal of this course is to use the students' knowledge of biology, chemistry, and physics to deepen their understanding of current environmental issues. The course also develops the critical thinking and analytical skills that are necessary to weigh the socioeconomic costs and benefits of this type of decision-making. Research and data collection are a large part of the class, and students' own interests are explored. This class prepares students for the AP Exam in Environmental Science in May. Students are expected to take this exam as the culmination of the course. Some summer preparation is expected as well. *Prerequisite: departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit* 

AP Physics C - Mechanics: This course is a rigorous, lab- and calculus-based physics course that covers the Mechanics portion for the AP Exam. Topics include: kinematics, Newton's laws, energy, momentum, rotational motion, simple harmonic motion, and gravity. Students are expected to take the AP Exam as the culmination of the course. Some summer preparation is expected as well. *Full-year; one credit*

AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism: This 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. 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. *Prerequisite: Concurrent enrollment in AP Physics C - Mechanics. Full-year; one credit*

JUNIOR AND SENIOR ELECTIVES

Advanced Biotechnology: This course takes a deep dive into the structure and function of prokaryotic and eukaryotic genes and genomes in order to be able to use both foundational and cutting edge Biotech tools and techniques: electrophoresis, restriction enzymes, bacterial transformation, bioinformatic databases, epigenetic manipulation, PCR, DNA sequencing, and CRISPR. Students will gain the skills to function independently in a formal lab setting as they use these tools to solve novel problems. All assessments are project-based, require collaboration, project management, tool use, data management and analysis, and both written and oral scientific communication skills will be emphasized. If fascinated by the latest in DNA technology, or have ever wondered what it would be like to do actual lab-based scientific research, this is the course for you. Some of the lab techniques will require time outside of class, but this can be shared and managed between research team members. Due to the nature and work flow of long term lab projects, this course can be doable while co-enrolled in more homework intensive AP science courses. *Lab fee may apply with financial aid support to those who qualify. Prerequisites: One of the following, Integrated Science II - Honors or Biology, completion/concurrent enrollment in AP Biology or AP Chemistry, departmental approval required. Full-year; one credit*

Anatomy & Physiology: Most of us have a natural curiosity about our bodies. This full-year course strives to answer some of these questions using readings, discussions, and activities. The emphasis is on the structure and function of body systems and their relationships to one another. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year; one credit*

Astronomy: This course helps students gain a greater appreciation for the night sky and the evolution of planets, stars, and galaxies. Students are introduced to ancient methods of observation and also utilize some of the most modern techniques. A weekly lab held at the Cahall Observatory provides a practical appreciation for observing and studying the Cosmos. Topics include comparative planetology, the sun, star formation, supernovae, black holes, and the origin of the universe. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year; one credit*

Earth Science: The Physics of Natural Phenomena, the purpose of this course is to help students develop an appreciation and understanding of how Earth works. Students study major topics in Geology and Meteorology including mapping, minerals, rocks, plate tectonics, mountain building, erosion, weather, and climate. We explore, in-depth, the cause and effect of natural hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanoes, floods, landslides, hurricanes, tornadoes, and climate change. The teacher also hopes to introduce students to enough beautiful places (e.g., national parks and forests) that those students can't wait to go out and visit some of them! Designed to be very "visual" (extensive use of media) this course features plenty of hands-on projects and activities. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year; one credit*

Marine Science: This course explores the world of oceanography through a variety of lectures, labs, papers, and numerous other activities. We look at the biological, chemical, physical, and geological interactions of every aspect of life on our planet, from tide pools to the deep abyss. Units of study include geology, current events, navigation, exploration, and more. Also explored is the biology of the world of water through a variety of lectures, labs, papers, and numerous other activities. We look at the biological, chemical, physical, and geological interactions of every aspect of life on our planet, from tide pools to the deep abyss. Units of study include biology, chemistry, current events, deep-sea aquaculture, and more. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year, one credit*

Qualitative Chemistry: Students in this class will learn chemical principles from a more conceptual, less mathematical perspective. Students will explore the interdisciplinary nature of chemistry, examining its connections with other scientific fields and its relevance to everyday life, societal issues, and global challenges. We will delve into the foundations of chemistry, investigate matter and energy, explore chemical reactions, and connect chemistry to the broader society. Through a combination of classroom instruction, laboratory investigations, discussions, and collaborative projects, the course aims to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to become informed citizens, critical thinkers, and lifelong learners in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year, one credit*

Systems & Structures: This course help students gain a greater appreciation for the engineering process and are designed to delve more deeply into a variety of physical and human systems through inquiry. Two key aspects of this course are designing and building large-scale projects as well as the leadership and management involved in a team environment. Students interested in this course should possess strong quantitative skills, a creative bent, the desire and ability to solve problems in groups, and a keen interest in the physical sciences. Many of the class activities are team-based projects; therefore, good attendance is essential and constitutes a significant portion of the student's grade. *Seniors take precedence over junior applicants. Full-year, one credit*

ELECTIVE COURSES

Robotics I: This course introduces students to basic concepts of robotics. Students focus on the specific programming skill sets required to engineer a working robot: project management, mechanical design, and programming. Students also develop skills in problem-solving, novel idea generation, and communications. *This course does not fulfill the science graduation requirement. This course is open to all students. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR, AND SENIOR ELECTIVE COURSES

Robotics I: This course introduces students to basic concepts of robotics. Students focus on the specific programming skill sets required to engineer a working robot: project management, mechanical design, and programming. Students also develop skills in problem-solving, novel idea generation, and communications. *This course does not fulfill the science graduation requirement. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Robotics II/III: This course continues with the themes of Robotics I while incorporating more engineering design ideas with robotics. Students expand on the programming and design required for a variety of robotic tasks. Students meet as an entire class one period each week while also spending two other periods/week working independently in the robotics lab. *This course does not fulfill the science graduation requirement. Prerequisite: Robotics I and I/II. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Independent Science Research: This course introduces students to actual research in scientific laboratories in the Boston area with the goal of working in a lab for six to eight weeks during the summer. Students meet two times per week to review and present current research from periodicals and work on research projects at school. Eight times throughout the year students visit labs in and around Boston. By May, they have applied to work as an intern with one of the labs for the summer. The summer component is an essential part of the course. *This course does not fulfill the science graduation requirement. Prerequisite: Integrated Science I and II, and/or departmental approval required. Open to juniors, meets two times a week, and is a Pass/Fail course. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

WORLD LANGUAGE

Students must take three years of the same world language and complete level III in order to meet the World Language graduation requirement. Students are placed in a course according to interest, ability, preparation, and prior language background. It is expected that all students enrolled in an AP Language course will take the Advanced Placement Examination.

The World Language Department offers Latin, French, Spanish, and Mandarin Chinese. In Latin, classes prepare students to read and translate classic works, explore the verbal and rhetorical connection to English, and appreciate the history and culture of the Ancient World. In French, Spanish, and Chinese, the goals range from students being able to have basic conversations to students reading and discussing major works in the target language. Reading, writing, and conversational skills are all emphasized and developed throughout the course of study.


The department also strongly urges students to travel to a country where the target language is spoken or to find ways to use the target language outside the classroom to broaden their experience and ability. Thayer Academy organizes trips to various locations to study language and culture. More information about trips is available on our website under Student Life.

CHINESE

Chinese I: Designed for those who have never spoken or studied the language and for non-native Mandarin speakers with up to one year of previous study in the language. The course provides students with the fundamentals for learning to understand, speak, and begin to read and write Mandarin Chinese. Students develop accurate pronunciation and tones, learn to understand the spoken language in context and develop a foundation of basic sentence patterns, questions, and everyday vocabulary. The sound system (pinyin and tones) and the writing system (radicals and stroke order) are presented in detail. Reading is used to support and reinforce the acquisition of the spoken language. The course is proficiency-based and focuses on the development of listening and speaking skills. Towards the end of the first year, the classes will be conducted in Chinese for at least 80% of the class time. *Full-year, one credit*


Chinese II and Chinese II - Honors: Designed for those whose Mandarin speaking/listening proficiency reaches novice-low or novice-mid according to ACTFL standards or who have taken Chinese I at Thayer Academy. This course expands students' understanding of Chinese languages and cultures. Learners are provided with more vocabulary and sentence patterns to deepen their ability in conversing about various topics. Reading is used both to support and reinforce the acquisition of the spoken language and expand vocabulary. Character handwriting strengthens character recognition, and typing improves accuracy of using sentence patterns. The course is proficiency-based. Class is conducted in Chinese for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year, one credit*


Chinese III and Chinese III - Honors: Designed for those whose Mandarin speaking/listening/reading proficiency reaches novice-mid or novice-high according to ACTFL standards or who have taken Chinese II at Thayer Academy. In this course, students learn about Chinese culture and contemporary topics through readings and videos in Chinese. Learners are expected to discuss the Chinese readings in the target language, and to use strings of sentences, in both speaking and writing, and to ask simple questions with ease. Students grow their vocabulary through readings and express ideas by typing. Character writing remains the tool to reinforce character recognition. The course is proficiency-based. Class is conducted in Chinese for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year, one credit*


Chinese IV and Chinese IV - Honors: Designed for those whose Mandarin speaking/listening/reading proficiency reaches novice-high or intermediate-low according to ACTFL standards or who have taken Chinese III at Thayer Academy. In this course, students continue to learn about Chinese culture and contemporary topics through readings and videos in Chinese. Modified readers of traditional Chinese novels and some classic Chinese will be introduced. Learners give presentations on a wide variety of topics about cultures, contemporary issues, and personal interests. Writing reinforces the use of various vocabulary and diverse sentence patterns. The course is proficiency-based. The class is conducted entirely in Chinese. *Full-year, one credit* 

Chinese V and Chinese V - Honors: Designed for those whose Mandarin speaking/listening/reading proficiency reaches Intermediate-low according to ACTFL standards OR who have taken Chinese IV. In this course, students continue to learn about Chinese culture and contemporary topics through readings and videos in Chinese. Modified readers of traditional

Chinese novels and some classic Chinese will be introduced. Through reading, students can enhance their speaking and writing abilities to narrate deliberately, describe in detail, and compare from various perspectives. The course is proficiency-based. The class is conducted entirely in Chinese. *Full-year; one credit* 

Chinese Heritage Language I - Honors: This honors class is designed for students who are able to comfortably carry on extended conversations in Mandarin, but who have limited literacy skills. The primary focus of the course is developing students' reading and writing abilities while continuing to expand their listening and speaking skills. Starting from Pinyin, stroke order, basic radicals, and characters, the course will gradually expand students' character-recognition abilities. Students will learn characters and phrases through reading stories and novels that provide cultural topics to narrate, describe, discuss, and compare. The course is conducted entirely in Chinese. *Full-year; one credit* 

Chinese Heritage Language II - Honors: This course is designed for students who are able to comfortably carry on extended conversations in Mandarin, and who can read 200-300 characters or who have taken Chinese Heritage Language I - Honors: . The primary focus of the course is developing students' reading and writing abilities while continuing to expand their listening and speaking skills. Students will learn characters and phrases through reading stories and novels that provide cultural topics to narrate, describe, discuss, and compare. Also, class discussions and presentations will give students opportunities to hone their speaking skills. The course is conducted entirely in Chinese. *Full-year; one credit* 


AP Chinese Language & Culture: Designed for those whose Mandarin speaking/listening/reading proficiency reaches intermediate-low or intermediate-mid according to ACTFL standards. Students develop and expand their speaking and listening abilities to make formal presentations, to narrate, describe, discuss, debate and persuade. Students also read authentic materials on a variety of topics related to Chinese culture, history and modern life. Students improve their composition skills through regular writing assignments. Students deepen their cross-cultural communication skills by continuing to observe and compare cultural commonalities, similarities, and differences. The course is proficiency-based and conducted entirely in Chinese. This course prepares students for the AP Exam. *Full-year; one credit* 

FRENCH


French I: This is the initial course of study for students of French language, literature, and culture. Thorough preparation in the basics of French grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation is provided, and emphasis is placed on equipping the student with the skills for continued language study. To this end, the class is conducted in the French language as much as is viable. *Full-year; one credit*


French II and II - Honors: In French II, the skills and activities of French I are reinforced and broadened, enabling students to become more sophisticated and proficient in expression. Reading abridged works of fiction and writing short reports and detailed narratives are integral parts of the course. The primary goal of the second-year curriculum is to enhance students' proficiency in the four basic language skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing to prepare them for advanced study in French. French II - Honors is an accelerated class. Class is conducted in French for at least 80% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit*


French III and III - Honors: This course focuses on improving students' speaking and writing through daily engagement with culturally rich stories and authentic media that explore the Francophone world. Speaking activities are done daily. By the end of the third year, French students have seen and practiced most elements of the French language, including all of the indicative tenses, most grammatical concepts, and many topics within the subjunctive. Students expand their vocabulary and use idiomatic language in "authentic" situations. Students in French III - Honors work on essay writing, including cultural analysis, compare and contrast, formal emails, and argumentative essays. Class is conducted in French for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit*


French IV: The focus of this course is to enable students to become proficient in the French-speaking world and to expand their reading and listening comprehension skills via authentic materials. Students engage in refining a variety of study skills and techniques that seek to elicit creative and imaginative responses in the target language. Reading selections exploring the diversity of the Francophone world vary according to the ability and interest level of the class. Class discussions are conducted in French. Class is conducted in French for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit* 

French IV - Honors: This is a course for advanced students who are highly proficient in all aspects of the French language. Widening the lens to explore Francophone culture, history, and current events, a wide variety of written and spoken sources are used to hone all language skills. Written expression focuses on the ability to synthesize sources, develop thoughtful ideas, and

write with a command of grammar and idiomatic expression. There is increased potential for intellectual and creative pursuits, independent study, cooperative learning, and more student involvement in the preparation of class materials. While most grammar is studied in context, students review all aspects of advanced grammar, idioms, and vocabulary. Class is conducted in French for at least 90% of the class time. Students who successfully complete this course will go on to AP French. *Full-year, one credit* 

French V: This class is for students wishing to continue their French studies, typically in their senior year. The emphasis is on honing all skills to keep them active in preparation for continued study in college. Students explore French culture and literature, both in France and in Francophone countries throughout the world. The sweep is wide, with everything from cinema, music, and cuisine to politics and current events being fair game for study here. Class is conducted in French for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year, one credit* 

AP French Language & Culture: This course prepares advanced students for the AP Exam in French Language & Culture using a wide variety of text and audio sources. A holistic approach is taken that more than ever accents communicative and cultural proficiency while developing interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills. Students explore global, cultural issues in both contemporary and historical contexts. They develop the ability to make comparisons between cultures, with particular emphasis on the Francophone world, and their exploration is thematically structured. Written and oral expression focuses on synthesizing sources, developing thoughtful ideas, and communicating with a command of grammar and idiomatic expression. The class is conducted entirely in French. *Full-year, one credit* 

Advanced French Language & Culture: This course has the singular goal of maintaining and finessing French language skills. To this end, the rule is equally singular: everything is in French. Core content targets explorations of current events in the Francophone world and events in the world as reported there. This course is for students who have passed the AP Exam in French Language & Culture. The class is conducted entirely in French. *Full-year, one credit* 


LATIN


Latin I: Using the *Suburanī I* (Ch. 1-13) text, students will learn both to see Latin as an important part of the multicultural world of Rome and to view that world through Latin. Emphasis will be chiefly placed upon effective strategies for reading Latin, and to achieve this overarching goal we will pay close attention to essential elements of the Latin language: parts of speech, morphology, vocabulary (including English and Spanish derivatives), and grammatical/syntactical rules. By laying the foundations necessary for reading Latin, we shall maintain a number of objectives, including (but not limited to) the following: to enjoy learning about an ancient language and culture that thrived for thousands of years; to build an appreciation for the many ways in which Latin and Roman culture has remained influential across time and space (both for better and for worse); to use a knowledge of Latin vocabulary and grammar to improve written/oral/reading skills in English and Spanish; and to make comparisons and connections between the myths and cultures of ancient Mediterranean peoples with that of other cultures across time and space. *Full-year, one credit*


Latin II and Latin II - Honors: After reviewing the concepts of the *Suburanī I* text (Ch. 1-13), students delve into an investigation of *Suburanī II* (Chapters 14-26). This intensive study virtually completes the textual study of grammar, leaving the succeeding years for literature and grammar study through reading and composition. Further study of key elements of the history and culture during both the Republic and Empire are explored. Various handouts are used and projects assigned throughout the year to reinforce student knowledge in preparation for the National Latin Exam in the spring. *Full-year, one credit*


Latin III and III - Honors: This course embarks upon the study of *Ecce Romani III* and introduces students to the works of the Roman historian Eutropius. After foundational work in historical readings, students translate, analyze, and discuss prose selections from Julius Caesar, Cicero, Asconius, and Augustus. Students are further introduced to the poetry of Catullus, Horace, Ovid, and Vergil, as time permits. Latin III - Honors is an accelerated class and is considered the first in a two-year language cycle that prepares students for study in the Advanced Placement Latin course. Students must show a sound understanding of Latin grammar and syntax and must display a high proficiency in vocabulary in order to proceed to Latin IV - Honors. Various resources are used throughout the year to complement grammar and literature with myth, culture, and history. *Full-year, one credit*

Latin IV - Honors: Students read and discuss selections such as Catullus' *Carmina*; Horace's *Odes*; Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, *Amores*, *Heroides*, and *Ars Amatoria*; Pliny's *Epistulae*; and 1-2 Latin novellas to further language acquisition and reading fluency. Emphasis is placed on greater depth of understanding and greater sophistication in literary analysis. Students

complement their reading Latin with projects to learn about ancient Rome and the context of what they are reading -- the history, culture, religion, and politics. In the spring, students begin some study of Vergil's *Aeneid* and dactylic hexameter and may read parts of *The Aeneid* in English in order to get an introduction to AP Latin. Latin IV Honors moves at a pace appropriate for preparing students for the work of AP Latin (Vergil and Caesar) in the following year. *Full-year; one credit* 

Latin IV and Latin V: The primary goal of these courses is to provide students with a fuller understanding of the Latin language, including its vocabulary, syntax, and grammar through extensive reading of both adapted and unadapted Latin prose and poetry. Students read the literature of Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Vergil and Pliny as well as 1-2 Latin novellas related to an aspect of Greco-Roman mythology or Roman history/culture. (Each year the teacher alternates the syllabus to accommodate students who are in Latin V.) To heighten understanding of this literature, history, and culture, students read novels in English, complete research projects, and do creative projects. *Full-year; one credit* 

Latin VI: The primary goal of this course is to provide students with a fuller understanding of the Latin language, including its vocabulary, syntax, and grammar through extensive reading of both adapted and unadapted Latin prose and poetry. Students read the literature of Catullus, Horace, Ovid, Vergil and Pliny as well as 1-2 Latin novellas related to an aspect of Greco-Roman mythology or Roman history/culture. To heighten understanding of this literature, students read novels in English, conduct research, and do creative projects. *Full-year; one credit* 


AP Latin: In this course students read in Latin and English selections from Vergil's *Aeneid* and from Pliny the Younger's Letters. Students complement their reading with attention to syntax; cultural, political, religious, and social customs of the first century B.C. in ancient Rome; projects; essays; and articles. Students explore the significant context, themes, central characters, and key ideas in the Latin passages. To develop students' ability to read Latin at sight, students read authors in addition to Vergil and Pliny the Younger; these include as prose writers Nepos, Cicero, Livy, and Seneca, and verse authors Ovid, Martial, Tibullus, and Catullus. *Full-year; one credit* 

SPANISH


Spanish I: In the first year of Spanish, students are encouraged to speak the language from the first day of class. Throughout the year, emphasis is placed on the acquisition of oral and aural proficiency and the development of writing skills. Students learn and review appropriate grammar for a first-year language course. To this end, the class is conducted in the Spanish language as much as is viable. *Full-year; one credit*


Spanish II and II - Honors: In this course, the skills and activities of Spanish I are reinforced and broadened, enabling students to become more sophisticated and proficient in expression. The concentration on aural-oral skills continues with a focus on oral proficiency. Written work becomes longer and more sophisticated, and reading assignments are used to introduce students to cultural topics and more complex language. The focus of this class is on the Spanish-speaking world. The inherent goal of the second-year language program is preparation for more advanced study in the language, where classes are conducted solely in Spanish. Class is conducted in Spanish for at least 80% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit*


Spanish III and III - Honors: This course focuses on improving students' speaking and writing through daily engagement with culturally rich stories and authentic media. Speaking activities are done daily. By the end of the third year, Spanish students have seen and practiced most elements of the Spanish language, including all of the indicative tenses, most grammatical concepts, and many topics within the subjunctive. Students expand their vocabulary and use idiomatic language in "authentic" situations. Students in Spanish III - Honors work on essay writing, including cultural analysis, compare and contrast, formal emails, and argumentative essays. Class is conducted in Spanish for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit*

Spanish IV: The focus of this course is to enable students to become more proficient in using the target language and expand their auditory comprehension via authentic materials. In this course, students refine their writing and reading skills while exploring literature, music, and media from Spain and Latin America. Class is conducted in Spanish for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year; one credit* 


Spanish IV - Honors: This is a course for advanced students who are highly proficient in all aspects of the Spanish language. Widening the lens to explore Hispanic culture, history, and current events, a wide variety of written and spoken sources are used to hone all language skills. Written expression focuses on the ability to synthesize sources, develop thoughtful ideas, and write with a command of grammar and idiomatic expression. There is increased potential for intellectual and creative pursuits,

independent study, cooperative learning, and more student involvement in the preparation of class materials. While most grammar is studied in context, students review all aspects of advanced grammar, idioms, and vocabulary. Class is conducted in Spanish for at least 90% of the class time. Students who successfully complete this course will go on to AP Spanish. *Full-year, one credit* 

Spanish V: This course is for students wishing to continue their Spanish studies, typically in their senior year. The emphasis is on honing skills to keep them active in preparation for continued study in college. Students explore Hispanic culture and literature. The course content is vast, with everything from cinema, music, and cuisine to politics and current events fair game for study. Class is conducted in Spanish for at least 90% of the class time. *Full-year, one credit* 

AP Spanish Language & Culture: This course develops advanced Spanish language skills as we focus on Latin American and Spanish culture, history, and current events. A wide variety of written and spoken sources are used to develop the speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills necessary to be successful on the AP Exam. Grammar study flows naturally from work on writing and speaking. Essay writing focuses on the ability to synthesize sources, create a thesis statement, and write cleanly. The goal of speaking activities is to express ideas clearly in idiomatic Spanish, both in a conversation and presentation format. AP Examination practice is ongoing throughout the year as students work to master the exam requirements. The class is conducted entirely in Spanish. *Full-year, one credit* 

ELECTIVE COURSES

Hispanic History & Culture I and II: The purpose of these courses is to develop an understanding and appreciation of Hispanic people, history, culture, and literature. Sources include books, internet sources, newspapers, guest speakers, and movies. Many topics are examined including literature, politics, race, foods, religion, cultural values, music, art, family, social classes, sports, and holidays. This course is offered in two parts, one during each semester. Students may sign up for both semesters or take only one or the other. Semester 1 begins with Spain's prehistory and goes through the age of exploration and conquest. Semester 2 covers the colonization and later independence movements in Latin America as well as modern art movements, music, and festivals around the world. *Conducted in English, this course is open to juniors and seniors who have completed a minimum of two years of ANY language. This course may satisfy the third-year language requirement with departmental approval. If the student has already completed Level III of a world language, this course qualifies for the Global Scholars Program. Semester 1, 1/2 credit and Semester 2, 1/2 credit* 

HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Health & Wellness curriculum is an integral part of the total Thayer experience. The program is designed to provide students the informational background they need to make responsible decisions when it comes to living a safe, active, and healthy lifestyle. The Health & Wellness Department provides each student with an opportunity to be exposed to and experience an array of health and fitness related courses.

Health & Wellness courses required for graduation:

- Grade 9 Health & Wellness (required, full-year)
- Grade 10 Health & Wellness (required, full-year)
- Grade 11 Health & Wellness (required, Semester 1)
- Grade 12 CPR Certification (required, Semester 1)

Grade 9 Health & Wellness: This course is designed to provide updated health-related information, which will help guide students in making positive and informed decisions regarding their present and future well-being. A variety of topics are presented and typically fall under three components: Unhealthy and Risky Behaviors; Human Sexuality and Healthy Relationships; Mental and Emotional Health. The class format is discussion-based with media presentations, outside speakers, group presentations, and activities. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Grade 10 Health & Wellness: This course introduces students to a variety of lifetime skills and activities. Topics include, but are not limited to, making informed decisions, discussing complicated issues that teens are faced with – consent, underage drinking, vaping, social media, etc. – lifetime activities, including archery, racquet sports, golf, yard games, and volleyball, among others. *Full-year, 1/2 credit*

Grade 11 Health & Wellness: This course is loosely grounded in the Science of Well-being class taught at Yale University. The class is designed to provide students with a better understanding of the science of well-being and the actions that they can take to positively influence their own physical and emotional health and happiness. Upon completion of the course, students will have a better understanding of themselves and their values as well as the practices that influence their well-being such as mindfulness, sleep hygiene, gratitude rituals, positive psychology, and more. This course meets once a week in the fall semester. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

Grade 12 CPR Certification: Seniors complete an **online** American Red Cross Blended Learning course in Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED and Basic First Aid. To satisfy certification requirements, students need to physically demonstrate proper skills and knowledge during a practical session with a Thayer Academy instructor. Upon completion of both components, students receive certification, which is good for two years. Students holding a current certification of the above are exempt from the course, as long as the expiration date does not precede graduation. *Semester 1, 1/2 credit*

JUNIOR AND SENIOR ELECTIVE COURSES

Sports Medicine: The course includes classwork and hands-on application in the areas of prevention, evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation of sports injuries. Students learn the essential components of an effective sports medicine program and the different career options available. Students utilize video analysis and simulation in order to learn event preparation and emergency management of common injuries. Students receive an overview of anatomy, physiology, and kinetics as they apply to the science of sports medicine. *This course is Pass/Fail. Full-year, 1/2 credit*

COLLEGE COUNSELING

College Counseling Seminar: This comprehensive course centers on personalized attention for students, and their taking ownership of their college search with the support of the College Counseling staff. Students will gain an in-depth understanding of the college search process by learning about college applications, essay writing, and strengthening their presentation and interviewing skills. Students will be challenged to think creatively through exercises that require self-evaluation and self-study. Students' competency will culminate with a final project focused on the college application process. This course meets once a week in the spring semester. *This course is a junior requirement, Pass/Fail. Semester 2, 1/2 credit*

Thayer Academy Upper School Course Offerings 2025-26

Highlighted Programs

Business & Entrepreneurship Program
Business Leadership Fundamentals

Business of Sports & Entertainment
 Entrepreneurship I
 Entrepreneurship II
 Entrepreneurship Incubator Program
 Finance & Accounting Essentials
 Peer Leadership Fellowship - Honors
 Peer Leadership Fellowship
 Principles of Marketing
Global Engagement Program
 The Common Good I
 The Common Good II
 Global Scholars Capstone I
 Global Scholars Capstone II
Independent Study Program
 Independent Study
 Independent Study - Honors

Arts

Ninth Grade Arts Rotation

Performing Arts

Dance Choreography
 Dance Techniques & Styles
 Acting & Directing for Theatre
 Musical Theatre
 Technical Theatre
 Chorus

Chamber Orchestra

Jazz Ensemble

Rock Ensemble

Private Lessons

Visual Arts & New Media

Painting & Drawing I, II, III

Photography I, II, III

Pottery I, II, III

Sculpture I

Collaborative Design Lab I, II, III

Media Production

Film Production

Media Production & Sound Design

The Art of Numbers

Yearbook Publication, Journalism & Design

Visual Art I - Honors

Visual Art II/III - Honors

Computer Science

Programming I

AP Computer Science

Data Structures - Honors

English

English I, I - Honors

English II, II - Honors

Creative Writing Workshop - Honors

American Masters I: Story & Style

American Masters II: Story & Style

English III - Honors

AP English: Literature & Composition

AP English: Language & Composition

Senior Seminar, Senior Seminar - Honors

Advanced Composition - Honors: *Voice Magazine*

A Room of Their Own: Gender in Literature

Art of Communication

Being Human: Literature on Living

Rooting for the Anti-Hero: Villains and Antiheroes
 in Literature

Scene to Screen*

Science Fiction Literature: How Do We Get There?

Stories We Tell

Tiny Stories: A Writing and Reading Workshop

History

World History I, I - Honors

World History II, II - Honors

United States History

History of American Democracy - Honors

AP United States History

Law & Society

AP Macroeconomics

AP Microeconomics

AP Psychology

AP United States Government & Politics

Class Matters*

Economics

Global Scholars Capstone I*

History & Film: 1950s America

Introduction to Psychology

African History & the Afro-American Experience


Global Scholars Capstone II*

History & Film: Parallel Screens

Introduction to Psychology

Sports & Society

*Course satisfies the Global Scholars Capstone Program requirement. 

** Course satisfies the Global Scholars Capstone Program requirement if student has completed Level III of a Language. 

Mathematics

Algebra I

Algebra I Fundamentals

Algebra II - Honors

Algebra II

Algebra II Fundamentals

Geometry - Honors

Geometry

Geometry Fundamentals

PreCalculus - Honors

PreCalculus Advanced
 PreCalculus
 Statistics & Quantitative Analysis
 AP Statistics
 Topics in Calculus
 Calculus
 AP Calculus AB
 AP Calculus BC
 Linear Algebra & Proof - Honors
 Multivariable Calculus - Honors

Science

Integrated Science I
 Integrated Science I - Quantitative
 Integrated Science II, II - Honors
 Biology
 Quantitative Chemistry
 Physics
 AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 AP Environmental Science*
 AP Physics C - Mechanics
 AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism
 Advanced Biotechnology
 Anatomy & Physiology
 Astronomy
 Earth Science
 Marine Science
 Qualitative Chemistry
 Systems & Structures
 Robotics I, II, III
 Independent Science Research

French II, II - Honors
 French III, III - Honors
 French IV, IV - Honors*
 French V*
 AP French Language & Culture*
 Advanced French Language & Culture*
 Latin I
 Latin II, II - Honors
 Latin III, III - Honors
 Latin IV, IV - Honors*
 Latin V*
 Latin VI*
 AP Latin*
 Spanish I
 Spanish II, II - Honors
 Spanish III, III - Honors
 Spanish IV, IV - Honors*
 Spanish V*
 AP Spanish Language & Culture*
 Hispanic History & Culture I**, II**


Health & Wellness

Grade 9 Health & Wellness
 Grade 10 Health & Wellness
 Grade 11 Health & Wellness
 Grade12 CPR Certification
 Sports Medicine

College Counseling

College Counseling Seminar

*Course satisfies the Global Scholars Capstone Program requirement. 

** Course satisfies the Global Scholars Capstone Program requirement if student has completed Level III of a Language. 

World Language

Chinese I
 Chinese II, II - Honors
 Chinese III, III - Honors
 Chinese IV, IV - Honors*
 Chinese V, V - Honors*
 Chinese Heritage Language I - Honors*
 Chinese Heritage Language II - Honors*
 AP Chinese Language & Culture*
 French I

Upper School Planning Guide

Name: _____ Advisor: _____

23.5 Credits Required for Graduation	English	History	Math	Science	World Language	Arts	Electives	Health & Wellness Special Interest	Annual Credits
	Credits Required: 4 Course:	Credits Required: 3 Course:	Credits Required: 3 Course:	Credits Required: 3 Course:	Credits Required: 3 Course:	Credits Required: 1 _____ Ninth Grade Arts Rotation	Credits Required: 3 Course:	Credits Required: 3.5 ____ Grade 9 Health & Wellness ____ Common Good I	
Grade 9	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:		
Grade 10	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	____ Grade 10 Health & Wellness ____ Common Good II	
Grade 11	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	____ Grade 11 Health & Wellness ____ College Counseling Seminar	
Grade 12	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	Credits: Course:	____ Grade 12 CPR Certification	
Total Credits:	Credits: English: _____	Credits: History: _____	Credits: Math: _____	Credits: Science: _____	Credits: World Language: _____	Credits: Arts: _____	Credits: Electives: _____	Health & Wellness Special Interest: _____	