

# CATALOG

**New and Notable**

## **ACADEMIC Course Catalog**

**2026**  
**2027**



# New and Notable Courses 2026-2027

## COMPUTER SCIENCE

### **Understanding How AI Works for Non-Programmers**

AI raises a lot of questions. Can a machine be more creative than a human? Can a machine become conscious? Before addressing these questions, a good strategy is to understand how AI really works. Then, people have a more realistic sense of what processes are going on behind the scenes. After learning how AI works, most people are less impressed with AI's abilities. To help us go behind the scenes, we will compare an artificial neural network with a human neural network. No programming experience is needed to understand the material of this course.

### **Understanding How AI Works for Programmers**

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## ENGLISH

### **Absolute Cinema**

In this course, we will burden ourselves with the timeless search for meaning through the intertextual study of "classic" films and texts. Topics could include obsession, alienation, and ambition approached through a pairing of cinema with texts. Students analyze the connections between characters who are at odds with social environments, the ways that society amplifies feelings of loneliness, and how society punishes characters who don't conform. By analyzing films within philosophical and narrative frameworks, students learn how to relate contemporary stories with so-called "classic" texts from different time periods, showing the different ways that both mediums can capture the human condition. Coursework will include analytic writing, historical research, and discussion.

### **All About Love: A Writing Journey**

This course invites students to consider and write about the many meanings of love, including self-love, romantic love, moral love, agapic love, and mutual love. Students will also examine how "love" is shaped through language and what language has to do with love, passion, and desire. Projects will include research and analytical writing, keeping a commonplace book and delight log, and assembling collage poems and love blueprints.

### **Ancient Wisdom for Modern Life**

We've all felt at a loss at some point in our lives. How can I keep it together when things fall apart?

Can people truly connect with one another? How do I want to be remembered? This course will invite students to wrestle with these questions and more alongside such classical thinkers as Plato, Aristotle, and Seneca from the ancient Mediterranean, and Mencius, Lao Tzu, and Confucius from China, who have offered some enduring answers. The course will also trace the cultural influence of those philosophers' ideas into the present day.

### **Art of the Personal Essay**

In this course, students are invited to engage in the long tradition of creative nonfiction, bringing personal experiences to the page. Students will learn how to generate an idea, practice imagining an audience, develop writing process strategies, offer and receive feedback, and strive for writing with vulnerability. Through reading a variety of personal essays from writers like Joan Didion and David Sedaris, experimenting with craft through emulation, and drafting their own personal essays in turn, this course offers students a space to find and hone their unique voices.

### **Banned Books**

The Banned Books course provides an opportunity for students to be exposed to works of literary merit that for various reasons are or have been kept off the shelves at other institutions of learning. In reading, discussing, and writing about the texts chosen for this class, students explore themes often encountered in post-secondary literature courses while still in high school, so an open mind and a measure of maturity are expected on the part of interested students.

### **Everyone's A Critic**

Mass engagement with media is always increasing, and the ability to absorb and critique the art we consume is crucial. This course may focus on films, a selection of novels, or other media and invites students to assume the role of critics through writing. Students will not only learn how to read a text with the intent of reviewing it but will also develop the skill of articulating their opinions and arguments on these texts through writing. Possible forms to explore include the op-ed, literary analysis, film/book reviewing as a craft, as well as forum-based commentary (e.g., Rotten Tomatoes, IMDb, Goodreads, etc.). The objective of this class is to discuss why and how we should view and analyze art of any kind beyond classifying it as "good" or "bad, as well as the power we have to influence culture when we act as a mindful audience. In this course, students will consider questions such as "Did The Hunger Games films miss the point the books were trying to make?" and "Did Greta Gerwig's Barbie make strides for women, or did it fall flat?"

### **So That's Where That Came From**

This course is centered on intertextuality throughout literary history and traces how "originals" (foundational myths, texts, images, or ideas) reappear, mutate, or gain new meaning through adaptation, allusion, quotation, trope, or thematic inheritance. By following lines of descent, students engage with literature as an ever-evolving cultural conversation rather than a collection of isolated works, analyzing how meaning shifts as texts are reimagined for new audiences and historical contexts. Units may follow exile narratives from classical epics to contemporary immigration/refugee fiction, investigate recurring quotations and iconic scenes across time, explore enduring archetypes like "coming of age," "forbidden knowledge," or "man playing god," or focus on direct adaptations in modern novels, plays, or films. Throughout the course, students build a broad bases for literary reference while developing skills in comparative analysis, close reading, and critical interpretation.

## **Video Game Analysis**

For decades, video games and the culture surrounding them have been deeply intertwined with the written word. With over two billion players worldwide, video games generate a vast range of literary content, from scripts and dialogue to interviews, reviews, and story adaptations. The language used to discuss games and their constituent parts offers an excellent springboard to a common lexicon upon which students can build in their future literary studies. This course offers a critical exploration of how video games contribute to and interact with other forms of media. Students analyze the narratives within games and their broader cultural impact, considering how gaming shapes and is shaped by the written word. Coursework consists of written assignments, discussions, and research projects.

## **World Gone Wrong**

Literature often offers us a vehicle through which to examine the best and worst parts of human nature and society, often through the lens of conflict and change. In World Gone Wrong, students will read and analyze a wide range of narratives surrounding conflicts in society or the steps taken by characters to settle these issues. Stories may focus on the impact on a broad section of society, such as a war story, or the implosion of one character's personal universe through individual challenges. From post-apocalyptic to historical texts, books covering the breakdown and rebuilding of social norms, characters going through earth-shattering events, or even stories set in alternate universes, there are many genres from which to choose texts. In addition to studying texts themselves, students in this class will also consider historical context where applicable, as well as how fictional texts might reflect contemporary society and our place within it.

## **Writing for Publication**

Have you started a big story and need time to write with the guidance of an experienced editor? Do you have a completed manuscript that you'd like to get published, but you know it's rough and you need help with editing and proofreading? Would you like to be able to share your writing with your peers and a supportive teacher—and hear their constructive criticism? Do you have a great idea for an essay, or a group of poems, or a film script, but haven't started turning that idea into reality? If any of these apply to you, Writing for Publication may be your course. This course invites students to consider, as part of their writing aesthetics, ethics, electracy, materiality, and curation across literary forms.

# **HISTORY**

## **Ethnography**

How do we understand the values and dynamics that define a particular social group? If you're an anthropologist, you do ethnography! Ethnography is a research method in which you immerse yourself in the environment, culture, and practices of those you study. In this course, students will become familiar with anthropological research methods and theory by reading classical and contemporary anthropological works. In particular, students will be attentive to methodologies that underpin ethnographic research, including participant observation, fieldnote collection, and interviewing. Alongside a review of the field, students will undertake ethnographic research on social settings they encounter in their day-to-day lives.

# READING

## **Understanding Informational Texts**

The Understanding Informational Text course explicitly teaches methods in a multi-sensory, sequential way to assist students in understanding and applying information from expository text about various topics. Students will learn about different organizational structures for informational text and the unique features that are encountered when reading a nonfiction passage, text, or article. Students will be able to navigate information and have a better understanding of the content. Students will practice reading with curiosity, resilience, and empathy. This course is for students who need support in collecting, synthesizing, and studying information from nonfiction academic texts.

# VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

## **Multimedia Production**

This immersive course equips students with the technical, creative, and narrative skills needed to plan, produce, and edit high-quality video and audio projects for multiple digital platforms. Students also study social media as a contemporary media form, analyzing its impact on communication, culture, and storytelling. In addition, the course examines the role of media in society, past, present, and future, while developing critical awareness alongside hands-on production skills.

## **Musicology**

Musicology introduces students to the study of music from a cultural and historical perspective. Students explore a broad array of traditions from around the world with the goal of formulating and answering questions about music's nature and about its use by people in diverse times and places. These diverse traditions will be studied through reading, listening, and performing together during class. Students will also develop essential skills for thinking and writing critically about music-related subjects. This course is recommended for students interested in IB Music.

## **The Art of Weaving**

The Art of Weaving is for both first-time and experienced weavers. First-time weavers learn how to create a hand-woven scarf by designing a scarf, warping the loom, and weaving the scarf from bambu-7 yarn. Experienced weavers may select from a variety of projects (e.g., scarves, table placemats, mug rugs, table runners). Students may also choose from a variety of yarns (e.g., cotton, linen, alpaca wool) with the goal of becoming independent weavers by course completion.

