SAINT MARY'S HALL

UPPER SCHOOL

2026-2027

CURRICULUM GUIDE

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Graduation Requirements

Departments	Credits
English	4
World Languages & Cultures	3
Social Studies (1 Global Studies, 1 US History, .5 credit per subsequent year)	3
Mathematics	4
Science (1 Chemistry, 1 Biology, 1 Physics)	3
Fine Arts	2
Physical Education/Athletics	2
Health & Wellness (.5 credit per year)	2
Interdisciplinary Studies (Effective for Class of 2028)	.5
Total Credits Required	**23.5**

Enrollment Standards

Students must be enrolled in at least seven (7) academic courses. This includes one semester of Health and Wellness enrollment each year.

Students who would like to enroll in 4 or more AP/College Level Classes must receive signed approval from the Head of Upper School and College Counseling Office.

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

*Please note that the academic enrollment expectations exceed the Graduation Requirements. This supports students in engaging beyond the required scope to pursue courses and topics that speak to their academic interests for exploration.

Required Sequence of Study

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

- Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature I; Rhetoric, Composition, and Literature II and an additional two credits in either AP English Language; or AP English Literature or various upper level semester electives offered by the English department.
- Global Studies, United States History (Modern, Honors, or Advanced Placement), and one additional credit of Social Studies elective(s).
- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II; While a student at Saint Mary's Hall, students are expected to be enrolled in math course each year.
- Chemistry, Biology, Physics
- Through Level III of a World Language
- Fine Arts classes and performance ensembles
- Physical Education as outlined in the "Athletics" section
- Additional Elective coursework
- Beginning with the Class of 2028, a semester course in Interdisciplinary Studies

Textbook Information

eCampus is an online bookstore that provides students with access to required educational materials, including textbooks, eBooks, and other learning resources. The platform is designed to be user-friendly and integrates directly with student schedules to ensure accurate book selection.

How Students Access eCampus

- **Enrollment**: Students are automatically enrolled in the eCampus program.
- **Login Information**: Students use their school email address as their eCampus username. The password is typically the same as their Veracross ID. This password is for eCampus only and does not provide access to the student's email account.
- **Newly Enrolled Students**: Textbooks will appear in eCampus once the student is officially scheduled in classes. If books are not visible, please contact the Registrar at registrar@smhall.org.
- **Montessori Students**: No textbooks are required for Montessori students.

Additional Materials

Please note: Some required class materials are not available through eCampus and will be sold through the Saint Mary's Hall Spirit Store. These items will be book billed at the beginning of each year and vary by course and Form.

Benefits of the eCampus Program

- **Convenience**: Materials are shipped directly to your home.
- **Flexible Buying Options**: Choose from new, used, digital, or rental formats based on teacher requirements.
- **Schedule Integration**: Book lists are tailored to your student's class schedule.
- **Buyback Program**: Sell back books online anytime, with premium pricing during promotional periods. Store credit buybacks receive a 5% bonus.
- **Return Policy**: Items can be returned within 30 days of the order date or the school start date, whichever is later.

Grade Point Average

Your **Grade Point Average (GPA)** is a numerical representation of your academic performance. It is calculated by the total number of grade points received divided by the total number of credits awarded.

Standard GPA Scale

Letter Grade	GPA Value
A+	4.3
A	4.0
A-	3.7

Letter Grade	GPA Value
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7

Letter Grade	GPA Value
C+	2.3
C-	2.0
C	1.7

Letter Grade	GPA Value
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7

Letter Grade	GPA Value
F	0.0

Schools often calculate two types of GPA:

Unweighted GPA - This GPA reflects your grades **without considering course difficulty**. It uses a standard 4.0 scale.

All courses are treated equally in this calculation, whether they are on-level, Honors, College Level (CL), or AP.

Weighted GPA - Weighted GPA gives **additional credit for more rigorous coursework**, recognizing the challenge of Honors, CL, and AP classes. At Saint Mary's Hall, advanced level courses receive the following GPA weights/"bumps" per course:

- Honors (+0.5 GPA Bump)
- College Level or AP (+1 GPA Bump)

This means students who take advanced courses and perform well can earn a GPA above 4.0.

How to Calculate Your GPA

1. **Convert each final course grade** to its GPA value using the scale above.
2. **Add the appropriate bump** for Honors (+0.5) or CL/AP (+1.0) courses.
3. **Add all GPA values together.**
4. **Divide by the total number of credits earned** to get your GPA.

Course Offerings

The following reflects the courses offered at Saint Mary's Hall for the 2026-2027 academic year.
*Note: All courses must have a minimum number of students enrolled (4) who can take the course at a single period in order for it to be offered.

Unless otherwise noted, courses are yearlong.

ATHLETICS

Graduation Requirement: 2 academic credits in Athletics

SPORTS MEDICINE I — ATH7502

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Length: Semester

Course Description: Sports Medicine I allows high school students interested in the sports medicine health care professions to gain the introductory knowledge and concepts of the sports medicine and athletic training professions. The student outcomes will align with exploring the concepts of sports injury, athletic healthcare team, sports injury law, sports injury prevention, sports psychology, nutrition, emergency action plan and initial injury recognition, first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), automated external defibrillator (AED), immediate care of athletic injuries of specific body areas, skin conditions in sports, bloodborne pathogens, thermal injuries, and special medical concerns of the adolescent athlete.

SPORTS MEDICINE II — ATH7513

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Length: Semester

Course Description: Sports Medicine II will focus on introducing the psychomotor applications of the components in sports medicine and athletic training. The components include Basic Life Support Certification (BLS); rehabilitative techniques; therapeutic modalities; prevention, recognition, and care of injuries to the head, face, spine, upper and lower extremity; taping and bandaging; adolescent sports injuries; substance abuse; and general health concerns in sports medicine. This course aims to provide lab instruction for hands-on experiences and evidence-based curricula within the domains of sports medicine and athletic training. The course will allow students to demonstrate psychomotor skills and duties needed in the realm of a sports medicine profession and in doing so, will prepare the student for a healthcare major in college.

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING — ATH7504

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Length: Semester

Course Description: Weight Training is offered to student-athletes looking to improve strength training, overall health and wellness, sports performance, injury prevention, physical and mental competitiveness, and toughness, along with amplifying strength, agility, and flexibility. This will be achieved through compound weight training movements, including many Olympic style weight training components, dynamic stretching, plyometrics, and agility drills. Powerlifting will be performed, paying close attention to technique and building a solid base before advancing with increased weight. This course will also include isometric lifting, circuit training, high-volume activity, and body-weight-resistant movements. The course will be tailored to varying skill and physical maturity levels and will incorporate some auxiliary lifting for sport-specific training. A heavy emphasis will be on breaking down each movement in order to master it safely.

ULTIMATE FRISBEE — ATH7505

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Length: Semester

Course Description: Ultimate Frisbee is a fun, pastpaced team sport that blends aspects of soccer, basketball, and football with the joy of throwing a 5 6 Frisbee. The Ultimate Frisbee class will focus on learning and understanding the basics of the game, while also developing many of the necessary skills, such as various types of throws. Beyond, individual development, we will also seek to build a strong team identity and have the potential of playing against other schools. This class will require changing into athletic clothes and shoes in order to be prepared for all for the running, jumping, and diving involved with the game.

YOGA — ATH7506

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Length: Semester

Course Description: Yoga is a practice of movement and mind. Our focus will be on increasing flexibility, stability, and strength and cultivating a calmer mindset. Together we will learn about yoga's asana or poses, some philosophy of yoga, and develop tools to stay centered both mentally and physically on and off the mat. Yoga blocks, straps and mats will be provided.

ATHLETICS — ATH7501

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Length: Semester

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

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

FALL SEASON

WOMEN	MEN
Volleyball	Cross Country
Field Hockey	Football
Cross Country	JV Tennis
Cheerleading	Cheerleading
JV Tennis	

WINTER SEASON

WOMEN	MEN
Basketball	Basketball
Soccer	Soccer
Cheerleading	Cheerleading

SPRING SEASON

WOMEN	MEN
Softball	Baseball
Track	Track
Golf	Golf
Tennis	Tennis
Lacrosse	Lacrosse

ENGLISH

Engaged in self-discovery and identity exploration, the SMH English Department encourages students to transcend a single narrative and to develop their voices to transform society through personal agency and advocacy for others.

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

Graduation Requirement: 4 academic credits in English

FORM 9 & 10 COURSE OFFERINGS

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION & LITERATURE I — ENG1114

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: 8th Grade English

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

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

RHETORIC, COMPOSITION & LITERATURE II — ENG1125

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ENG1114

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

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

FORM 11 & 12 COURSE OFFERINGS

FULL YEAR COURSES

AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION — ENG1132

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement, Research

Prerequisites: ENG1125

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

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

AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION — ENG1143

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement, Research

Prerequisites: Completion of three years of Upper School English

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

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

SEMESTER COURSE OFFERINGS

A VOICE OF ONE'S OWN: BUILDING VOICE THROUGH A WRITER'S COMMUNITY — ENG1500

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On Level

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: As an active member of a writing community, Virginia Woolf emphasizes that all writers need support and a dedicated space to hone their craft. In essence, Woolf believes all writers need "A Room of One's Own." This course offers students the opportunity to become part of an active writing community, where they will explore poetry, essays, creative nonfiction, and fiction, and also reflect on the creative process itself. They will learn what other writers have to say about the creative act, noting the strategies they use to compose, evaluate, share, and revise. Daily assignments, journal writing, reading model works, peer review, and teacher feedback are all essential components of the learning process. Most importantly, students will participate in a workshop-centered environment where work will be shared, discussed, and evaluated with peers.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Creating original pieces of writing, including, but not limited to: poems, essays, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Students will also be expected to read and evaluate the works of published writers, as well as offer a critique of their peers' works. All will be expected to contribute to and build the writer community at SMH, sharing their work in an end-of-semester portfolio and a class reading.

NAMING THE SELF: TRAVERSING CULTURE & BELONGING — ENG1501

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On Level

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: This course is designed to deepen students' understanding of how identity is shaped, challenged, and negotiated. Primarily through a critical lens, students will explore how cultural, racial, gendered, familial, and other experiences influence the formation of self and community. Students are invited to engage with fiction, nonfiction, and poetry by diverse authors whose works reflect the complexities of identity and belonging. Anchored by Jhumpa Lahiri's The Namesake, the course includes a rich selection of short texts that examine the intersections of personal and collective identity. Writing assignments will emphasize analytical thinking, voice, organization, and style, while encouraging metacognition through self-assessment, syntax analysis, and reflection. Students will practice these reading and writing skills through a variety of assignments, including reflective writer's notebook entries, guided discussions, and literary analysis essays.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading of one major anchor text (The Namesake), along with several shorter texts that are thematically linked to the anchor text; successful completion of a reader response notebook, a literary argument, and a personal identity essay.

"I, TOO, SING AMERICA": THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN VOICE — ENG1512

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On Level, Research

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: Through engagement with multifaceted, ever-transforming American literature from the early colonial period to the present, this course is designed to enhance students' abilities to comprehend complex texts, analyze literature, and navigate a sustained research paper. In a study of prose, poetry, and plays, students will navigate the interplay among culture, literacy, and national identity across a vast array of accounts and reflections on the evolution and revolution of the American experience. Prompting curiosity and openness, reading and discussion activities foster the study of both perspective and technique in works by diverse authors and enhance students' application of scholarly dialogue on literary works. Building metacognition, responsibility, and perseverance, students continue to practice and apply the recursive writing process across a variety of products, including pre-writing and brainstorming activities, visual and multimedia analysis, reading and writing practices, and a sustained, intensive

research paper diving deeply into the perspective of one specific American voice of study.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading of a broad spectrum of American literature; successful completion of a reader response notebook, dialectical analyses, a multimedia presentation, and an American identity sustained, intensive research paper.

HONORS - A CELEBRATION OF VOICE: ADVANCED WRITERS' WORKSHOP — ENG1510

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: This intensive, critique-based Workshop course is designed for serious writing students who have a strong foundation in the language arts. Building around a community of peer critiques, students will submit their own work and offer detailed, constructive feedback on others' manuscripts within a focused peer community. Students will submit original work, including but not limited to poetry, creative non-fiction, narratives, and short stories, for in-depth review by the instructor and peers. Readings will consist of exemplary contemporary pieces to help ground class discussions, to focus on technique, and to inspire individuals to find their voices and refine the use of advanced elements of rhetoric, sentence structure, paragraphing, and dialogue. A significant component of the course is the practice of substantial revision and reflection. By the end of the semester, students will have produced a polished portfolio of their original work, submitted their work for publication, presented their work to a small group, and reflected on their work in a formal Writer's Statement.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Creating original pieces of writing, including, but not limited to: poems, essays, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Students will also be required to reflect as both a reader and a writer, build a portfolio, create a formal writing statement, and submit work for contest and/or publication.

HONORS - "DEAR BASKETBALL": A STUDY OF SPORTS & STORYTELLING — ENG1511

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: Focused on the game of basketball, this course explores the interdisciplinary relationship between literature, sports, and storytelling, examining how the experiences of players and the devotion of fans merge to create a shared narrative that captures the spirit, struggles, triumphs, and enduring legacy of the game. Students will utilize an intersectional lens to gain an understanding of basketball that transcends the court, exploring the game's impact on culture, especially in San Antonio, Texas. Merging athletics and language arts through the study of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, media, music, and art, students will engage in student-led discussions, self-reflection, and discovery exercises, deepening their insights into language, culture, and the human experience. Throughout the semester, students will also compose a four-quarter personal essay and an interdisciplinary research essay, exploring the impact of their chosen player beyond his/her/their athletic performance. The course will conclude with a community "Highlight Reel Event," where students will showcase a curated collection of the semester's most powerful stories.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading of a broad spectrum of literature, including non-fiction, fiction, poetry, media, and music; successful completion of an interdisciplinary four-quarter research essay, a literary essay, and a reader response notebook.

HONORS - THE PRICE OF PERFECTION: DYSTOPIAN LITERATURE & THE HUMAN CONDITION — ENG1513

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors, Research

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: This course offers a cross-cultural exploration of social, cultural, and literary representations of perfection and its discontents. Drawing on literature, philosophy, sociology, cultural

theory, and science and technology studies, students will examine how myths of utopia, technological progress, and social harmony have shaped human visions of the "perfect" society. Through a historical and critical lens, the course investigates how ideals of perfection have often required the regulation of bodies, desires, and voices, exposing the costs of stability, efficiency, and control. Students will engage with both theoretical and literary texts — from canonical dystopias, to speculative short stories and related poetry — to analyze the connection between perfection, power, and the human condition. Student-guided class discussions, poetry analysis, and literary arguments will address how these visions of perfection function as tools of repression, as sites of exclusion, and as spaces for resistance and subversion in diverse contexts.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Reading of one major anchor text (Brave New World), along with several shorter texts that are thematically linked to the anchor text; successful completion of a reflective reader response notebook, a literary argument essay, and a sustained, intensive synthesis research project and presentation.

HONORS - CONFRONTING BORDERS: NAVIGATING IDENTITY, CULTURE & SPACE — ENG1514

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required — Level: Honors, Research, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: This course invites students into an interdisciplinary exploration of how borders—geographical, cultural, psychological, spiritual, and environmental—shape identity and belonging. Through close readings of literary and theoretical texts, creative reflection, and cross-disciplinary inquiry (including history, geography, psychology, cultural studies, and environmental theory), students will investigate the ways identity emerges through negotiation, resistance, or transformation and uncover the constructed nature of these borders. Students will apply interdisciplinary approaches to investigate border metaphors in literature and theory and how they reflect or reshape identity, and engage in creative projects and reflective writing to understand personal borders and cross them academically and emotionally. Depending upon their interests, their work will draw upon a variety of disciplines and genres of texts as they seek to represent how these borders and/or crossings affect identity formation. Students will participate in seminar-style discussions to present and workshop research findings. Final projects may strike a balance between creativity and theory, combining personal narrative, scholarly analysis, and expressive approaches.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Extensive reading of a broad spectrum of literature, including short stories, poetry, criticism, and longer works of fiction; successful completion of an interdisciplinary, sustained, intensive research essay, a literary essay, and a reader response notebook.

HONORS - "NOTHING LIKE A MADWOMAN": CONSTRUCTING FEMALE MADNESS — ENG1515

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required — Level: Honors, Research, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: ENG1125

Course Description: This course offers an interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exploration of social, cultural, and literary representations of female "madness." Drawing on history, philosophy, sociology, psychology, and medical discourse, students will examine how myths, archetypes, and cultural narratives have shaped perceptions of women's mental health. Students will engage with both theoretical and literary texts to understand the interplay between gender and discourses of madness. Students will read a variety of texts (medical, psychological, memoir, diaries, fiction, poetry, short stories) in order to understand how cultural forces and medical diagnoses of the time affected women and thereby their portrayal in specific literary texts, processing this learning through guided reader responses. Literary essays, as well as Socratic seminars and timed writings, will allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of the texts and understanding of the frameworks.

Major Obligations of Coursework: Extensive reading of a broad spectrum of literature, including short stories, poetry, longer works of fiction, scientific studies, memoirs, and theoretical texts; successful completion of an interdisciplinary research essay, a literary essay, and a reader response notebook.

FINE ARTS

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

Graduation Requirement: 2 academic credits in Fine Arts

INTRODUCTION TO ART

INTRODUCTION TO ART — ART6506

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

DRAWING & PAINTING — ART654

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

PHOTOGRAPHY DARKROOM — ART659

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

SCULPTURE & DESIGN — ART6510

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: This course is an introduction to the concepts, materials, and techniques relating to three- dimension art and design. In Beginning Sculpture and Design, students become familiar with the fundamental skills of art making, develop visual literacy and practice artistic thinking. Students will learn multiple construction techniques, including additive, subtractive, modeling, and assembly methods. Students will explore materials such as metal, clay, wood, plaster, and found objects.

Students will have the opportunity to utilize 3D printers and laser cutting while learning the basics of 3D digital design and experiencing furniture building and architectural design. These foundational techniques and media will provide students with the necessary skills to proceed to advanced-level work. As a class, students will examine the works of leading contemporaries in sculpture, ceramics, architecture, and 3D design. Students will practice dialogue and empathy by evaluating and discussing works of art through personal reflections and critiques. Each student will maintain a sketchbook in which to conduct exploration through sketches, information gathering, and annotations, as well as a digital portfolio for the duration of this class.

DIGITAL CINEMA — ART653

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

CL - ART HISTORY: GLOBAL & CLASSICAL FOUNDATIONS TO THE AGE OF DISCOVERY — ART6521

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: Open to Forms 10, 11 & 12

Course Description: This course introduces students to the global art world starting with Global Prehistory and continuing through the Age of Exploration (early 1400s). Incorporating both Western and Non-Western artworks, students will engage formally and conceptually as they research, discuss, read and write about responses to and interpretations of art, artists, and art making. Through investigating diverse artistic traditions from prehistory to the doorstep of the European Renaissance students develop skills of visual, contextual, and comparative analysis with art from a global perspective, cultivating an understandning of individual works as well as their interconnectedness across history and cultures.

Major Obligations of Coursework: The application of content will include reading, videos, lecture, discussion, and project-based learning. Mastery Measurements will include image identification and developing competencies in communication of all types from short writing entries to longer essays and from class discussions to class presentations and projects.

CL - ART HISTORY: RENAISSANCE TO GLOBAL CONTEMPORARY — ART6522

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: Open to Forms 10, 11 & 12

Course Description: This course introduces students to the global art world starting in the early European Renaissance and extendign through the Global Contemporary artwork of today. Incorporating both Western and Non-Western artworks, students will engage formally and conceptually as they research, discuss, read, and write about responses to and interpretations of art, artists, and art making. Through investigating diverse artistic traditions from the early Renaissance to the global present, students develop skills of visual, contextual, and comparative analysis of art from a global perspective, cultivating an understanding of individual works as well as their interconnectedness across history and cultures.

Major Obligation of Coursework: The application of content will include reading, videos, lecture, discussion, and project-based learning. Mastery Measurements will include image identification and developing competencies in communication of all types from short writing entries to longer essays and from class discussions to class presentations and projects.

DANCE

DANCE — ART6103

Semester Offered: All Year — Credits: 1

Recommendation: — Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

DANCE FOR FITNESS — ART6501

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: — Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: 1 academic credit of Dance and/or active enrollment in ART6103

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

AFTER-SCHOOL DANCE: BALLET & MODERN — ART6502

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring — Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: — Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: 2 academic credits of Dance and/or active enrollment in ART6103

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

DRAWING & PAINTING

ADVANCED - DRAWING & PAINTING — ART6124

Semester Offered: Full Year — Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required — Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ART6506

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

HONORS - DRAWING & PAINTING — ART6134

Semester Offered: Full Year — Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required — Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ART6124

Course Description: This course welcomes selfdriven and creatively motivated students and offers students the unique opportunity to develop a more independent voice while working toward a deeper understanding of specific interests in drawing, painting and/or printmaking. In this course, students work to develop techniques further, explore guided concept-driven assignments, and nurture an ever-evolving personal aesthetic. A sketchbook is used throughout the year and builds on studio habits relating to ideation, creative notations, observed studies, and personal journaling.

Fulfillment of time outside of class per quarter is required to complete projects. This course offers those students that are interested an opportunity to begin building a professional college portfolio that will go towards college admission, pre-college summer programs, and national competitions. Students will work with the instructor to digitally archive their work throughout both the fall and spring semesters. In addition, students will learn basic professional web-based tools for sharing their artwork.

CL - STUDIO PRACTICE IN DRAWING & PAINTING ART6145

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: College Level

Prerequisites: ART6134

Course Description: This course is the 4th year capstone course for self-driven and creatively motivated students wishing to go beyond traditional guided assignments in pursuit of a more thorough, rigorous investigation. Students have the unique opportunity to propose self-directed projects not limited to size or medium or number of completed pieces. Each student will work with the instructor to set the framework for their proposed project of inquiry. Studio habits developed in the previous years will be utilized to further develop areas of problem-solving, ideation, self-reflection, and execution of design concepts. For each student taking this capstone course, their work will vary from 15 their peers, ranging in traditional portraiture, still life, and landscape to cross-disciplinary forms of expression utilizing digital photography, sculpture, or digital cinema. Work evolves throughout the year, and rhythm is momentous as students work together through critique, self-reflection, and guidance from the instructor. A comprehensive survey of the year's work will culminate in a Senior Thesis Exhibit. Students will professionally document their work for their digital portfolio as well as develop a web-based archive of their artworks.

MEDIA ARTS

ADVANCED - DIGITAL CINEMA ART6122

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ART6506 or portfolio review

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

HONORS - DIGITAL CINEMA ART6133

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ART6122 or portfolio review

Course Description: This course will approach video as a tool for the exploration of the conceptual and the creative use of video as an art form. The student will develop a unique aesthetic voice and a critical approach with emphasis on the creative application of electronic media, with continuing exploration on the history of the moving image. In addition to aesthetic and conceptual information, the student will develop advanced skills in digital video, including all aspects of preproduction, production, and post-production. Filmmaking assignments will be coupled with additional study of genres and story ideation. This class is structured as an Advanced Honors level seminar to foster the creation of major video works as part of the film crew. Students are expected to follow a rigorous schedule of professional and artistic research production, postproduction, and critique.

CL - STUDIO PRACTICE IN DIGITAL CINEMA ART6144

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: College Level

Prerequisites: ART6133 or portfolio review

Course Description: Outside shooting time and festivals, to be determined. This course will approach video as a tool for the exploration of the conceptual and creative use of video as an art form. The student

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

MUSIC

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA STRINGS — ART6102

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Previous participation in strings ensemble or outside private instruction

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

JAZZ BAND — ART6104

Semester Offered: Academic Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Previous participation in band program or outside private instruction

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

MUSIC HISTORY — ART657

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Music History is a one semester course, designed for students who have an interest in different historical periods of music, and how they shaped today's music. No prior knowledge of music is necessary. The course will cover most of the large time periods and genres of western music, including, but not limited to: the classical period, opera, spirituals, jazz, blues, rock and roll, funk, pop, and hip-hop. Students will learn and present on numerous artists that are historically impactful in music, from Beethoven to Miles Davis, to Taylor Swift. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to identify genres and time periods of music by listening to it, as well as identify the characteristics unique to them, and gain an appreciation for the historical significance of each one.

MUSIC THEORY — ART658

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

students may elect to take the AP Music Theory examination during the spring semester. Note: This class is an independent study.

VOCAL ENSEMBLE ART6107

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

PHOTOGRAPHY AND DIGITAL IMAGING

ADVANCED - PHOTOGRAPHY ART6125

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ART6506

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

Required Materials: Digital SLR Camera and a portable hard drive

HONORS - DIGITAL IMAGING ART6123

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ART6125

Course Description: Students will explore advanced photographic editing, graphic design, digital illustration, and web design. They will utilize various software applications, including Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe InDesign, among others. The students will complete a variety of design-based projects that challenge their technical skills as well as their creativity. Over the course of the year, they will develop a portfolio website of their artwork which they can use for sharing their work in a professional fashion. Skills acquired in this course can be applicable to many different educational and/or career paths within the arts.

CL - STUDIO PRACTICE IN PHOTOGRAPHY ART6137

Semester Offered: Academic Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: College Level

Prerequisites: ART6123

Course Description: During the first semester, the students will explore a variety of concepts and approaches through investigative projects in darkroom photography, digital media, alternative photo processes, and mixed media. The students 12 will have the opportunity to create work that incorporates ideas and media from other disciplines including Cinema, 2-D Design, and 3-D Design. During the second semester, the student develops a body of work that is an in-depth investigation of a theme. This is concluded with a written artist statement defending the conceptual idea of the student's theme and how it evolved. The students will be responsible for preparing their work for a gallery exhibition at the end of the year.

PUBLICATIONS

YEARBOOK ART6108

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: The goal of the La Reata staff is to make the best possible yearbook for the students, faculty, parents, administration, and staff of Saint Mary's Hall. As a team, the staff will strive to design an award-winning publication that will appeal to students in Montessori through Form 12, parents, faculty and staff, our board, and our administration. In this class, the yearbook staff plans and puts together La Reata to document the school year's events. The team creates a theme for the school year,

designs and creates layouts, generates and seeks out photos, writes captions, stories, and headlines, and conducts interviews. Students must attend school functions to document their occurrences properly and show that La Reata supports school activities. Attendance, participation, layout design, finding and taking photos, and story and caption writing are all elements used to determine a student's grade.

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

SCULPTURE AND DESIGN

ADVANCED - SCULPTURE & DESIGN ART6126

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ART6506

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

HONORS - SCULPTURE & DESIGN ART6135

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ART6126

Course Description: This course offers students the opportunity to study in-depth areas of their own choosing through individual research and manifest in the creation of both assigned and self-developed projects. The student will use problem-solving and ideation to identify areas of interest. Outcomes may range from traditional craft such as functional pottery to digitally designed architectural projects or mixed media sculpture. This course requires strong self-direction, a studio time investment, and creative motivation. This course is designed to enhance students' creative proficiency, conceptual development as well as knowledge of sculptural media and techniques. Interested students will be guided through the process of developing a professional portfolio of related works for college admission, pre-college summer programs, or national competitions. The student will work with the instructor to document their artwork through digital photography for their portfolio throughout the course. In addition, students will learn basic professional web-based tools for sharing their artwork.

CL - STUDIO PRACTICE IN SCULPTURE & DESIGN ART6146

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: College Level

Prerequisites: ART6135

Course Description: In this 4th year's capstone course, students have the unique opportunity to pursue a self-directed intensive exploration of a theme or topic through the generation of specific 16 project goals, group critique, professional engagement that will culminate in a senior thesis exhibit. In addition to the students primary media, they will have to opportunity to engage with and utilize other disciplines within the fine arts, including but not limited to Digital Cinema, Photography, and 2D Arts. This course will strongly emphasize developing a personal vision, ambition, and responsibility and using problem-solving skills to integrate form and concept. Students will be encouraged to originate, propose and execute ambitious, potentially long-term projects building a dynamic studio practice. Process development, creativity, and independent goal setting are integral outcomes of this course. Students learn entrepreneurial skills and teamwork in an energetic, rigorous studio atmosphere. Students will

professionally document their work for their digital portfolio as well as develop a web-based archive of their artworks.

THEATER, SPEECH & DEBATE

INTRO TO THEATER PERFORMANCE — ART655

Semester Offered: Fall & Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Introduction to theatre performance is designed to give an overview of theatre, with a primary focus on the craft of acting. Students will be introduced to theatre history through performing classical and contemporary texts to aid in their ability to understand the role of theatre in society. Additionally, students will develop skills in acting to aid them in performance through exercises such as acting games, monologue work, and scene study. Students will be featured in a class performance at the end of the semester.

ACTING I-IV — ART6121

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: ART655

Course Description: In this full year course students will continue to develop their acting skills by emphasizing creativity, collaboration, and perseverance by studying and performing theatre literature. During the fall semester students will build on their performance skills and character development through monologue work, scene study, and staged readings of classic and contemporary plays. The spring semester will consist of practical application of skills by putting on a one act play or musical that will have on campus performances for a live audience. Prerequisite is Intro to Theater Performance for Acting I. Acting II and III require successful completion of the previous Acting level.

TECHNICAL THEATER — ART6511

Semester Offered: Fall & Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

THEATER PRODUCTION — ART6512

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Audition/Production selection process

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

HONORS - THEATER PRODUCTION — ART6523

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: ART6512 & audition/production selection process (must be cast for a major role or selected for a production leadership role)

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

SPEECH I-IV — ART6106

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required for advanced sections | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Students will learn concepts in oral interpretation, public speaking, and/or debate through preparation for and regular participation in Texas Forensic League, Tournament of Champions, and National Speech and Debate competitions and performances. Speech-focused students will develop an understanding of public speaking, script analysis/cutting, acting, characterization, and improvisation; and will prepare performances in the following events: Dramatic, Humorous, Prose, Poetry, Duo Interpretation, Duet Acting, Original Oratory, Informative Speaking, Program of Oral Interpretation.

DEBATE I-IV — ART6127

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required for advanced sections | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Debate students will train to compete in tournaments in the events of Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Congressional Debate, Original Oratory, and Informative Speaking. Debate students are taught public speaking, argumentation, case writing, effective rebuttal strategies, cross-examination skills, analytical thinking, and political and moral philosophy. Speech and Debate students are required to compete in at least four tournaments over the course of the year but are encouraged to pursue a more competitive schedule in order to qualify for opportunities at the State and National level.

HONORS - SPEECH & DEBATE — ART6142

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: 500 NSDA honor society points (Special Distinction or higher), A- or higher in Speech & Debate I-III, & qualified for a post-season tournament (TFA, ETOC, UKTOC, NIETOC, NSDA)

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

Major Obligation of Coursework: Attend eight tournaments throughout the regular competitive season (should not result in any additional school lost) unless already qualified to TFA State in three + events. Students enrolled in this class will be required to have three sessions with students in Speech & Drama I-III and/or Debate I-III per quarter to help develop mentorship and alignment.

ARTS MENTORSHIP PROGRAM — ART6132

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: 2 academic credits in Fine Arts and application process

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

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

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

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The foundational job of a school is student safety. Health education directly supports this responsibility by enabling students to have the knowledge and skills necessary to care for themselves and others. Classes are skills-based and provide regular opportunities for self-reflection and consideration of the perspectives of others. Students consider multiple dimensions of health and wellness as they develop skills in health literacy, decision-making, empathy, communication, and critical thinking.

Graduation Requirement: 2 academic credits in Health & Wellness (0.5 credits each year)

HEALTH FORM 9: IDENTITY, RELATIONSHIPS & COMMUNITY — HW9511

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: This course supports Form 9 students as they begin their tenure in Upper School. During the Form 9 year, students simultaneously continue to develop their own identity as young adults while also co-creating a form-wide identity and set of informal interpersonal norms. This course supports that natural interest by examining the ways that individual and group identities impact multiple dimensions of health and wellness. Students learn more about the new opportunities and responsibilities that come with being an Upper School student.

HEALTH FORM 10: NAVIGATING RISKS & DECISION MAKING — HW9521

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: In the Form 10 year, students experience increasing independence that requires responsible decision-making skills. In this course, students examine how various health behaviors impact multiple dimensions of health and wellness to understand better how individuals make decisions that affect their health. By considering values, goals, and potential outcomes, students reflect on their own decision-making processes and learn how to best advocate for safe, healthy decisions amongst their peers.

HEALTH FORM 11: ADVOCACY FOR SELF, OTHERS & SOCIETY — HW9531

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Form 11 students are increasingly looking outward at the world around them as they begin to imagine their lives post-graduation. In this course, students research and advocate for a variety of healthy outcomes for themselves, others, and the larger communities within which they reside. Through their coursework, students become more competent in using systems thinking frameworks to consider the interdependence of the individual and society.

HEALTH FORM 12: PREPARING FOR THE WORLD BEYOND SAINT MARY'S HALL — HW9541

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: This course supports Form 12 students as they make specific plans and preparations for the transition to post-graduation life. Heavy emphasis is placed on developing knowledge and skills in all dimensions of health and wellness that can be immediately used to support a safe and healthy college experience. This hands-on course ensures that students leave Saint Mary's Hall prepared to effectively navigate numerous non-academic aspects of the college experience.

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

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

Graduation Requirement: 0.5 academic credits in Interdisciplinary Studies; beginning with the Class of 2028.

CULTIVATING LIFE: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY EXPLORATION OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WOMEN'S GARDENS & THEIR IMPACT ON THE WORLD — INT1521

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Open to Forms 10, 11 & 12

Course Description: Since indigenous times, nurturing and cultivating a garden has been linked to women. This course is designed to explore the interdisciplinary impact of women's gardens, examining the historical, political, social, economic, literary, medicinal, and artistic impact of gardens on the global community, while providing experiential learning opportunities and practical gardening applications.

ECHOES IN THE BORDERLANDS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF SELENA QUINTANILLA — INT1531

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: Open to Forms 11 & 12

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

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

CL - HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS: THE ORIGINS OF NUMBERS AND ALGEBRA — INT1535

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: MAT3134/MAT3135

Course Description: Number Systems come from a variety of civilizations. Students will actively look at the developments in other cultures, such as the Babylonians, Mayans, and Arabs. We will study the development of our real number system and algebra and the thinking, theory, and background that led to some of our current secondary mathematics. Students will learn the roles that various people and cultures have played in the development of mathematics, and they will be challenged to avoid their own lenses of math knowledge and cultural background.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Students may be asked to work through mathematical proofs, read and analyze mathematics texts, work in different

number bases, or work with different symbols. Students may be required to write papers that compare and contrast the development of ideas across different civilizations or analyze further work on a topic. Students may read and analyze both historical math texts and current math texts.

CL - HISTORY OF MATHEMATICS: THE EVOLUTION OF GEOMETRY & CALCULUS — INT1536

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: MAT3134/MAT3135

Course Description: Students will take a closer look at Greek and Egyptian mathematics and the development of Geometry, including other Geometries and current news in Geometry, leading to our current Calculus topics. History of Mathematics will study the development of math through the ages and the thinking, theory, and background that led to some of our current secondary mathematics. Students will learn the roles that various people and cultures have played in the development of mathematics, and they will be challenged to avoid their own lenses of math knowledge and cultural background.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Students may be asked to work through mathematical proofs, read and analyze mathematics texts, work in different number bases, or work with different symbols. Students may be required to write papers that compare and contrast the development of ideas across different civilizations or analyze further work on a topic. Students may read and analyze both historical math texts and current math texts.

TRANSDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH — INT1533

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Open to Forms 11 & 12

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

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

UNHEARD VOICES IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE: EXPLORING & IDENTIFYING THE POWER, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND EXPERIENCES OF MARGINALIZED POPULATIONS IN THE DISCIPLINE OF SCIENCE — INT1534

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Completion of or enrollment in SCI4121/SCI4122

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

Major Obligation of Coursework: Write reports, create visual representations and presentations of what we've learned in class, additional reserached, attend guest lecturer series, and group study of the book, The Immortal Life of Henriette Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

MATHEMATICS

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

Graduation Requirement: 4 academic credits in Mathematics

ALGEBRA I — MAT3111

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Completion of Pre-Algebra

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

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

GEOMETRY — MAT3121

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3111

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

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

HONORS - GEOMETRY — MAT3122

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation from MAT3111

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

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

ANALYTICAL ALGEBRA — MAT3133

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3111 & MAT3121

Course Description: Analytical Algebra is designed to support students in preparing for Algebra 2. The course reinforces and deepens key concepts from Algebra 1 and Geometry while emphasizing analytical thinking, problem solving, and mathematical reasoning. Students will revisit foundational algebraic skills—such as linear and quadratic relationships, systems of equations, functions, and algebraic manipulation—while making strong connections to geometric concepts such as coordinate geometry.

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

ALGEBRA II — MAT3131

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3121 or MAT3122; students new to SMH will be asked to take an Algebra readiness exam

Course Description: After a review of real numbers, a functional approach is emphasized, stressing

graphs, properties, and applications of linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Additional topics include systems of equations, radicals and solving radical equations, conic sections, and some mathematical modeling.

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

HONORS - ALGEBRA II MAT3132

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: B- average or higher in Geometry Honors or A+ average in MAT3121; students new to SMH will be asked to take a placement exam; current SMH students who want to move from level Geometry to Algebra II Honors must have a June review to evaluate their 2nd semester work in Geometry

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

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

COLLEGE PREPARATORY MATH MAT3110

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3131

Course Description: College Preparatory Math will focus on a functional approach to gaining the essential algebraic skills needed for success in College Algebra or Pre-Calculus. Students will study, in depth, graphs, properties, and applications of linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions as well as be introduced to trigonometric functions.

PRECALCULUS MAT3134

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MAT3132 or 75 or higher average in MAT3131

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

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

HONORS - PRECALCULUS MAT3135

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: B- average or higher in MAT3132 or A+ average in MAT3131; students new to SMH will be asked to take a placement exam; current SMH students who want to move from level Algebra II to Pre-Calculus Honors must have a June review to evaluate their 2nd semester work in Algebra II

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

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

CALCULUS MAT3136

Semester Offered: Full Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MAT3135 or B- average or higher in MAT3134

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

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

AP - CALCULUS AB MAT3141

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: B average or higher in MAT3135 or A average in MAT3134; students enrolling in AP Calculus AB must have a June Review to evaluate their 2nd semester work in Pre-Calculus

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

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

AP - CALCULUS BC MAT3142

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: B- average or higher in MAT3141, or A+ average in MAT3135 with teacher recommendation; students enrolling in AP Calculus BC must have a June Review to evaluate their 2nd semester work in Pre-Calculus

Course Description: Prior to beginning this course work in the fall, all students are required to complete a packet of work over the summer. This course is for students who have completed Calculus AB the previous year and who wish to complete preparation for the BC Level AP Examination. The material of Calculus AB is reviewed, followed by the precise definition of limits and continuity, advanced integration techniques, analysis of parametric and polar curves, vector-valued functions, infinite series, and elementary differential equations. A graphing calculator is required for this course. Students are strongly encouraged to sit for the national AP exam in the spring.

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

CL - MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS MAT3143

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: C average or higher in MAT3142

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

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

CL - LINEAR ALGEBRA - DIRECTED STUDY MAT3531

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: MAT3143

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

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

CL - DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS - DIRECTED STUDY MAT3532

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3531

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

their connection to vector spaces

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

MATHEMATICS ELECTIVE COURSES

PRINCIPLES OF FINANCE — MAT3521

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3111

Course Description: The Principles of Finance course is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to manage their finances effectively. The course typically covers a range of topics related to personal finance, including: budgeting and financial planning,
saving and investing, credit and debt management, insurance, taxes. The course will also cover broader financial concepts such as financial markets, economic factors, and the impact of government policies on personal finances. Overall, the goal of the course is to help students develop the financial literacy and skills they need to make informed decisions about their money, both now and in the future.

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

FINANCIAL INVESTMENTS — MAT3522

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3111

Course Description: This course introduces students to the fundamentals of investing and the workings of the stock market. Using interactive platforms like "Personal Finance Lab," students will explore investment strategies, learn to evaluate stocks, bonds, and other financial instruments, and build balanced portfolios. Through virtual simulations, stock pitches, and group projects, the course encourages hands-on learning while covering topics such as risk management, diversification, and long-term financial planning.

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

STATISTICS — MAT3137

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3131

Course Description: Explore core principles of data analysis in this high school-level statistics course. Covering descriptive statistics, probability, inferential statistics, data analysis techniques, correlation/regression, survey design, and real-world applications, students gain practical skills to interpret and represent data confidently. Engaging lessons and hands-on applications empower them with valuable quantitative skills for understanding and navigating real-world scenarios.

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

AP - STATISTICS — MAT3138

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: C average or higher in MAT3132 with Form 10 standing or C average or higher in MAT3131with Form 11 or 12 standing

Course Description: AP Statistics is a college-level course that introduces the basic concepts of statistical analysis. The course is designed to help students develop a deep understanding of statistical methods and their applications in real-world scenarios. Throughout the course, students will learn how to describe data using graphical and numerical summaries, as well as how to analyze data using a variety of statistical techniques, such as hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and regression analysis. The course also covers probability theory and its applications in statistical inference.
In addition to learning statistical concepts, students will develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills by applying statistical methods to real-world problems. They will also learn how to use technology to analyze data and draw conclusions from their findings. The AP Statistics course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement exam in statistics. By successfully

completing this course and exam, students can earn college credit and demonstrate their proficiency in statistical analysis to potential colleges and employers.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Graded homework, quizzes, tests, projects and exams.

SCIENCE

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

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

Graduation Requirement: 3 academic credits in Science (1 Chemistry, 1 Biology, 1 Physics).

Students considering majoring or pursuing a career in STEM should also consider

- Taking advanced physics, chemistry, and biology courses as soon as they are eligible to take them.
- We also strongly encourage students to take at least an introductory computer science course if they intend to pursue a major in a STEM-related field.

CHEMISTRY I — SCI4121

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

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

HONORS - CHEMISTRY I — SCI4122

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: Form 8 Standing - Geometry 8 or Algebra 8; Form 9 Standing - Alegbra I

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

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

BIOLOGY I — SCI4131

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SCI4121

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

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

HONORS - BIOLOGY I — SCI4132

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122

Course Description: Each unit will be introduced through the lens of contemporary events occurring in the biology field from which to build unit material, offering an authentic and applicable lens into the world of biological science. The approach for the course will be student-centered and experientialbased, allowing for more robust

connections, greater engagement, and therefore increased content mastery. In addition to the level course work, the honor biology track will include extensions to particular topics to help students better prepare for some of the more challenging areas of study within the AP Biology curriculum. Assessments, reports, readings, and questions will include extension sections that will increase the expectations for time management and potential outside-of-school work time needed.

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

AP - BIOLOGY SCI4133

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: Rising Form 9: Grade of A or higher in SCI4122 or a B or higher in SCI4132; Rishing Forms 10-12: B average in SCI4122 or an A average in SCI4121. All forms require a teacher recommendation.

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

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

PHYSICS I SCI4111

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122 and completed or concurrent enrollment in MAT3111

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

HONORS - PHYSICS I SCI4112

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122 and completed or concurrent enrollment in MAT3111

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

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

AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS SCI4141

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122 and completed or concurrent enrollment in MAT3141 or MAT3142

Course Description: The AP Physics C Mechanics is a calculus-based, college-level physics course, especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in one of the physical sciences or engineering or some life sciences and applied sciences. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through classroom study and activities as well as hands-on laboratory work as they explore

concepts like change, force interactions, fields, and conservation. The use of mathematics, including calculus, algorithms, and computers as tools to help interpret and explain physical phenomena, will be emphasized throughout the course. The computer will also be used where appropriate to use and analyze data. Students comfortable with describing the effects of modifying conditions

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

SCIENCE ELECTIVE COURSES

ASTROPHYSICS — SCI4521

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SCI4111/SCI4112

Course Description: The subject of astrophysics is applying the basic principles of physics to understanding everything beyond the Earth's atmosphere. Since the Universe is a very large place, we cannot study every type of object observed and theorized to exist in this block. This class will focus on learning the tools used by astronomers and physicists as applied to astronomy without too much emphasis on math. We will learn about how stars shine, how they form and evolve, different types of stars and stellar systems, the interactions between stars and planets around stars, and cosmology. The students also will have an opportunity to investigate any area of astrophysics that interests them and present their research to the class. The students should leave the course with the tools necessary to both understand and appreciate future discoveries in astronomy and astrophysics!

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

BOTANY — SCI4501

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

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

AP - CHEMISTRY — SCI4134

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122

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

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

AP - ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE — SCI4135

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: SCI4121/SCI4122 and SCI4131/4132

Course Description: AP Environmental Science is a college level integrated study of ecology and

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

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

METEOROLOGY SCI4523

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SCI4111/SCI4112/SCI4141

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

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

HONORS - OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY SCI4500

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: Completion of or enrollment in MAT3131/MAT3132

Course Description: Astronomy is one of the oldest natural sciences, with roots that likely extend back to prehistoric times. Modern advances in observational tools now allow us to peer deeper into space and further back in time than ever before, creating an especially exciting era for astronomical study.
This course is designed to introduce students to the foundations of observational astronomy, including the history of the field, essential optical physics, telescope types and operation, the electromagnetic spectrum, celestial motions, our place in the cosmos, and methods of astronomical data collection and interpretation. Students will develop practical skills in observing the night sky and analyzing real data, all while gaining a deeper appreciation for the universe and our place within it.
The structure of the course includes canceling one regular class meeting each week to make room for extended evening sessions. These two-hour meetings, held every other week, will support hands-on observing activities and strengthen students' familiarity with equipment and night-sky conditions. The course will also incorporate several field experiences, including visits to the Scobee Planetarium at San Antonio College, Trinity University's rooftop observatory, and a public star party hosted by the San Antonio Amateur Astronomical Society.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Tests, practicals, labs, papers, quizzes and site visits.

CL - ORGANIC CHEMISTRY SCI4136

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: College Level

Prerequisites: SCI4133

Course Description: This course is designed to be equivalent to a college-level organic chemistry course. We will study chemical nomenclature, reaction mechanisms, and synthessis of carnon-based compound, acid/base chemistry, stereochemistry, and functional groups. This course is designed for students with a passion for chemistry

who plan to study organic chemistry more closely for their intended college major. Students will have a combination of lectures and written practice in drawing chemical structures and will learn various lab techniques. Students comfortable with producing citations for all background information, drawing conclusions for larger concepts, and who can conceptualize and visually represent three-dimentional objects should consider this course.

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

PRINCIPLES OF ENGINEERING SCI4522

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: MAT3131/MAT3134 and SCI4121/SCI4111. Concurrent enrollment in computer science recommended.

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

Major Obligation of Coursework: An ability to use appropriate safety practices while working with tools and equipment - laboratory and mechanical activities. Applications of science and math concepts to determine the effect of stresses placed on a structure and its components - analogue modeling. Create an understanding of the design process and an effective utilization of the principles of this approach to problem solving - analytics. Evaluate simple machines for the purpose of providing a foundation of analyses, interpretation, and techniques in skills development - bench testing and process measurements. Synthesize and communicate the results of experimental protocols and tested materials using scientific report practices - project design, production, and presentation.

PRINCIPLES OF ROBOTICS SCI4102

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Principles of Robotics is intended as a continuation of Competitive Robotics; however, participation in the Competitive Robotics class, though encouraged, is not required. The course is year-long with multiple emphases on engineering design and construction as well as computer programming. The class will utilize, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology (FIRST) Tech Challenge, program as the main project and frame of study. Participation in the competition is highly encouraged. The robot will be designed and built with multiple robotic kits and some customized parts via 3D modeling and printing. Students are expected to develop a clear understanding of the engineering process during this course. Additionally, a mastery of image and video editing skills may be gained as the year progresses. Some new and/or more difficult areas of programming, such as object-oriented programming via Java, will be introduced as opportunities and students' interests arise.

Major Obligation in Coursework: Introductory coding in Java, coding and programming FTC Robot, Introduction to 3D – Design and Computer-aided design.

RESEARCH SCIENCE SCHOLARS SCI4531

Semester Offered: Summer & Academic Year | Credits: 1.5

Recommendation: Application Process | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SCI4121 & SCI4111

Course Description: This is a course where students learn about the human endeavor of scientific research, foundational laboratory skills, how to evaluate results using statistical analysis, and how to plan, implement, perform, and communicate research findings. There are three components to this program: classroom work, an independent research project, and an off-site internship in a certified laboratory. Space is limited in this course, and interested students must complete an

application to be considered.

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

COMPUTER SCIENCE

INTRODUCTION TO CODING & PROGRAMMING — SCI4510

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Successful completion of MAT3111 with a B or better

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

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

AP - COMPUTER SCIENCE A — SCI4130

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: MATH3132, MATH3135, MAT3141, MAT3142 or MAT3523

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

Major Obligation of Coursework: Programming assignments, classwork, quizzes, tests, summer assignment.

CL - DATA STRUCTURES & ALGORITHMS — SCI4140

Semester Offered: Full Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: MAT3139

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

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

SOCIAL SCIENCES

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

Graduation Requirement: 3 academic credits in Social Sciences - 1 credit in Global Studies, 1credit US History & 1 credit in elective(s)

SOCIAL SCIENCES - CORE COURSES

All Saint Mary's Hall students are required to take one year of Global Studies in Form 9, and one year of U.S. History in Form 10. Global Studies is an on-level course while U.S. History is offered at on-level, honors and AP levels.

GLOBAL STUDIES — SOC2111

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: Completion of 8th Grade Social Studies

Course Description: Global Studies is a thematic exploration of world history, beginning with the formation and spread of foundational belief systems. The course will also investigate the interplay of Western intellectual traditions with transformative political movements and revolutions, the genesis of modern governance, and the impact of technological advancements within the turbulent landscapes of global conflicts. The course culminates in a research project to allow for an in-depth exploration of an event that considers multiple competing perspectives.

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

MODERN US HISTORY — SOC2112

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required for Honors level | Level: Embedded Honors (Optional)

Prerequisites: SOC2111

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

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

AP - US HISTORY — SOC2122

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: SOC2111 with an A- or higher average

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

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

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

SOCIAL SCIENCES – CORE ELECTIVES

To complete their Social Sciences graduation requirement, in addition to one year of Global Studies and one year of U.S. History, students will take **at least** one Social Sciences core elective per year for a minimum of 0.5 Social Sciences credits in Forms 11 and 12, respectively. Students may also choose to engage in additional Social Sciences courses.

CIVIC DISCOURSE & INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE — SOC2512

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SOC2111

Course Description: To prepare students for productive discourse and participating in difficult conversations, students will learn guidelines centered on mutual respect, active listening, and openness, and the process of preparation, communication, and learning required for respectful dialogue.

GEOPOLITICS, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & CONTESTED BORDERS — SOC2511

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SOC2111

Course Description: This course introduces students to the field of International Relations and Political Geography through the lens of contested international boundaries. Students will investigate the way that political, cultural, economic, and geographic boundaries have evolved over time, how those boundaries are constructed and maintained, and the implications of the contestation of those boundaries. Throughout the course, students will utilize specific case studies of contested international boundaries as a lens through which they can understand the roles of geopolitics and territoriality. Students will gain a basic understanding of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in their analysis and will complete a final project where they construct an ArcGIS StoryMap to demonstrate their understanding of the multifaceted nature of a specific contested boundary.

INTRO TO PSYCHOLOGY — SOC2525

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SOC2111

Course Description: This course conforms to the core curricular recommendations of both the National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) and the American Psychological Association (APA), and is designed to introduce students to the basic concepts and theories of psychology. Students will learn about the stages of human development and how personality, parenting, culture, family and social relationships, can affect development. Students will explore issues pertaining to mental health as well as the causes and treatment of mental disorders. Research on learning, the brain and behavior modification will be emphasized. Other important goals of this course are to provide a full array of psychological information to assist students in making decisions, and to improve students' understanding of human motivations and behaviors.

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

MODERN RUSSIA: EMPIRE, REVOLUTION & RESURGENCE — SOC2510

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: This semester-long course examines the transformation of Russia from the late 19th century through the present day. Beginning with the reform era of Alexander II, students will explore the collapse of the Russian Empire, the rise and fall of Soviet communism, the challenges of post-Soviet transition, and contemporary Russian politics and society. The course concludes by examining Russia's complex relationships with its

neighbors, including Eastern Europe, the Balkans, and Central Asia, and how imperial legacies continue to shape regional dynamics. Through primary sources, historical analysis, and current events, students will investigate how Russia has grappled with modernization, identity, authoritarianism, and its place in the global community.

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY SOC2524

Semester Offered: Fall Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: The course will take students through the process of building a National History Day research project. Students willl work within the annual national theme and select either a documentary, website, performance, exhibit, or paper. Examples will be used to demonstrate each step of the process while also teaching key historical events. Students will work to improve use of library and online databases, analysis of primary and secondary sources, use of the National History Day libguide, citation and bibliography skills, writing, and understanding of historical context, causation, short, and long term effects. In addition, creativity and technical skills will be learned, honed, and applied to student projects.

PSYCHOPATHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE SOC2535

Semester Offered: Spring Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This course provides an in-depth exploration of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying various developmental and adult psychopathologies. Students will examine the neural basis of disorders such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, autism, and personality disorders. The curriculum will include discussion of neurotransmitter systems involved in psychopathology, including serotonin, dopamine, and neuropeptides like vasopressin and oxytocin. Student conversations will include the role of stress hormones and neuronal connectivity in mental disorders; genetic and environmental risk factors for psychopathologies; and current findings from human studies and animal models of psychopathology. This course will also discuss the impact of brain dysfunction on mental health and illness, as well as, neuropsychopharmacology and the effects of psychotropic drugs.

MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY SOC2522

Semester Offered: Fall Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Level: Embedded Honors (Optional)

Prerequisites: SOC2111

Course Description: The course is an exploration of the major events and ideas of Europe from the mid12th century to the contemporary era. Topics will include the new movements in the arts, the cultivation of modern day understandings of human rights, and government structures. Utilizing primary and secondary documents, this course will discuss the early efforts at state-building, warfare and technology, contesting ideologies and philosophies, and economic developments in labor, production, and regional trade. The course is structured around Harkness discussions, and students are expected to complete the readings so they can contribute to the discussion.

HONORS - JUSTICE & POLITICS THROUGH FILM SOC2534

Semester Offered: Spring Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course focuses on dilemmas of justice in areas such as politics, law, environment, immigration, war, gender, race and poverty. Political movies transmit messages that reflect and become embedded in culture. Examining those messages and the means of delivery will be a critical component of this course.

Class time is split between instruction, discussion, and film viewing. Students will lead discussion by coming up with questions to consider about the reading and film. Throughout the course, students will engage with diverse fields including historical events, historical context of the film, philosophical approaches to justice, cinematography, sound, and storytelling/genre.
Student projects will involve selection of a supplemental film, researching multiple aspects, and presentation covering multiple disciplines. Class discussion will also be geared toward inclusion of the same fields.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Class time will be divided between watching each required film, followed by discussion of the essential questions detailed in the course description. Discussion skills are paramount as well as student generated inquiry as to themes, relevance and impact of the film's deliverables. Several short writing assignments are to be expected in each quarter. One independent project on a film chosen from a selected list is planned in quarter two. There will be assigned readings from a college level text. *Films have been carefully reviewed and chosen for their value to the course objectives. Some films carry an 'R' rating; therefore, students should consider their readiness to engage the themes presented in the films selected for this course.

AP - BUSINESS SOC2133

Semester Offered: All Year
Credits: 1
Recommendation: Required
Level: Advanced Placement
Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: AP Business with Personal Finance is a yearlong, college-level course designed to prepare Saint Mary's Hall students for success in both college and career. As the first AP course to integrate essential business principles with personal financial literacy, it gives students the tools to understand how businesses create value, how markets function, and how individuals can make informed financial decisions. Students will explore entrepreneurship, management, marketing, accounting, and investing through real-world projects and case studies while learning the financial practices that promote lifelong economic well-being. This course satisfies the Personal Finance graduation requirement and provides an opportunity for students to earn college credit and an industry-recognized credential through the College Board's AP Exam, launching nationwide in 2026–27.

AP - COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS SOC2132

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Recommendation: Required
Level: Advanced Placement
Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: AP Comparative Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in comparative government and politics. The course uses a comparative approach to examine the political structures; policies; and political, economic, and social challenges of six selected countries: China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Students cultivate their understanding of comparative government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like power and authority, legitimacy and stability, democratization, internal and external forces, and methods of political analysis.

AP - MACROECONOMICS SOC2131

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Recommendation: Required
Level: Advanced Placement
Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

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

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

AP - US GOVERNMENT & POLITICS SOC2135

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring
Credits: 0.5
Recommendation: Required
Level: Advanced Placement
Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This course examines in detail the origins and evolution of the United States government, how it works, as well as the

constitutional theories which form the basis of our political system. Additionally, Supreme Court decisions which have and continue to influence the system are studied in depth. Finally, political trends and issues that reflect and impact public policy are analyzed. Students will have the opportunity to take the AP U.S. Government and Politics Exam in the Spring.

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

CL - COLLAPSE OF CIVILIZATIONS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF THE END OF THE WORLD SOC2537

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course offers an examination of societal collapse and portrayals of the end of the world from historical, cultural, scientific, and futuristic perspectives. Students will investigate and identify key contributing factors to historical instances of civilization collapse, examine end-of-world scenarios in various cultural and religious contexts, research contemporary existential risks to global civilizations, analyze apocalyptic themes in science fiction literature and cinema, and develop and propose research-based solutions to foster global sustainability. Throughout the course, students will engage with diverse fields, including history, anthropology, literature, film studies, and futurism, to develop a nuanced understanding of the decline of civilizations and how they are represented in various contexts. Each quarter will present students with a research-based challenge and an interdisciplinary project-based learning experience where students will display their learning in a public exhibition.

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

CL - GLOBAL COLD WAR & CIVIL RIGHTS SOC2536

Semester Offered: Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This college-level course surveys the global and domestic dimensions of the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement from 1945 to 1991. The first section of the course explores the origins of the Cold War, tracing the ideological, political, and economic tensions that emerged between the United States and the Soviet Union in the aftermath of World War II. The second section examines how the global struggle between democracy and communism shaped decolonization movements across Africa, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia.
The third section focuses on the American Civil Rights Movement, analyzing how domestic efforts for racial equality were influenced by international pressures and global discourses on freedom and human rights. The final section investigates the intersection of global and domestic movements, emphasizing how civil rights activism in the United States resonated with and was informed by struggles for independence and equality worldwide.

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

CL - HISTORY OF MODERN ASIA SOC2533

Semester Offered: Fall, Spring | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level, Interdisciplinary

Prerequisites: SOC2112/SOC2122

Course Description: This interdisciplinary course covers the history of modern East, South and Southeast Asia from the beginning of the modern period around the 17th and 18th centuries to the present. The course covers materials from multiple regions of Asia to provide a more inclusive and balanced view of the region. The course is organized regionally and will touch on a wide range of topics

such as the emergence of belief systems, the evolution of the state, the development of art and philosophy, popular customs, family and social organization, economy and technology, and foreign relations.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Students are NOT assumed to have had prior acquaintance with the subject. Participation is absolutely essential, and so is the completion of all assignments as scheduled to enable full and rewarding participation in this class. The course will provide students with the opportunity to master key concepts and themes in East, South, and Southeast Asian history while exploring and utilizing significant primary and secondary sources.

World Languages and Cultures

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

Graduation Requirement: Up through Level III of a language.

FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

FRENCH I LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5101

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

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

FRENCH II LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5121

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5101

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

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

FRENCH III LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5137

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5121

Course Description: French III is an Intermediate/Advanced course. French is spoken exclusively in the classroom. Refinement and further mastery of linguistic models and the completion of the grammatical base will be accomplished. Students become able to use French in realistic, everyday situations, utilizing the four skill areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Paired and group activities are based on real-life situations to the fullest extent possible. CD's, visual aids, videos, written exercise workbooks, and short stories or excerpts from a variety of literary sources as well as a

leveled reader - Poursuite dans Paris - supplement the text in order to further develop linguistic and cultural fluency. Students' performance is formally tested through quizzes, oral presentations and written tests. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring. These contests help build students' self-confidence and challenge them.

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

HONORS - FRENCH III LANGUAGE & CULTURE — LAN5131

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5121 with an A Average

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

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

FRENCH IV LANGUAGE & CULTURE THROUGH LITERATURE AND FILM — LAN5141

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: Embedded Honors (Optional)

Prerequisites: LAN5131/LAN5137

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

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

AP - FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE — LAN5142

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: LAN5141 with an A average or LAN5131 with a B+ Average

Course Description: Students work towards attaining conversational fluency in everyday, nontechnical situations, the ability to respond to factual and analytical timed questions based on a visual prompt, a level of listening comprehension enabling them to understand most of what a native speaker says in ordinary situations and the ability to make themselves understood by means of the

appropriate use of colloquial expressions and circumlocution, an accent that does not hinder comprehension, and the skills necessary to write a coherent, well-organized essay on a topic of current interest incorporating correct grammatical and idiomatic usage. Supplementary materials will include excerpts of films (Paris, The Class) audio recordings, newspapers, and magazines, excerpts from works of francophone authors or short works such as short stories, short novels and AP practice materials. Students are encouraged to participate in different contests such as the National French Contest and La Journée de la Francophonie, both in the spring.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Students are expected to complete all assignments by dates due. Students are expected to attend class and follow attendance guidelines stated in the Student Handbook.

CL - FRENCH V FILM & LITERATURE LAN5143

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: LAN5141 or LAN5142

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

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

LATIN LANGUAGE & CULTURE

LATIN I LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5102

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

Course Description: Students will use the Cambridge Latin Course Units I and II. Unit I focuses on the city of Pompeii, and weaves culture and archaeology into a Latin plot-line concerning a typical Pompeian family, and their daily lives leading up to the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius. Unit II follows the fortunes of two characters who survived Unit I through Britain and Alexandria, Egypt. Language and culture acquisition is reinforced by the extensive use of multimedia resources, including: many short documentaries enhancing the cultural themes of each chapter; video dramatizations of stories; and many interactive activities to aid, consolidate and assess understanding. Readings on Roman and Greek mythology will supplement core course material. Students will have the opportunity to focus on an academic topic such as mythology, history, or culture, and to play competitive Certamen (a classical quizbowl) at the local, state and national level. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March or April) is strongly encouraged. All students take Level 1 of the National Latin Exam in March.

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

LATIN II LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5122

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5122

Course Description: This course is a continuation of Latin I or 1B. After a brief review, students will constantly reinforce and build their reading skills and increase the size of their vocabularies. The text for the course is the Cambridge Latin Course Unit III. The intrigue of the continuous story line returns to Roman Britain and then goes on to the city of Rome itself. The study of Roman culture is extensive. Students will acquire an understanding of the

formative developments of the Roman world, e.g. the founding character of the Romans, how the Roman republic became an empire. Individual cultural topics studied at this level include the city of Rome, religion and philosophy, the military and technology, the baths, and the structure of Roman society. Regarding mythology, there is also an emphasis on the nature of the underworld, which is a component of the National Latin Exam syllabus. Select movies are viewed and analyzed, including Masada and Gladiator. All essential Latin grammar is covered at this level, including the participles, infinitives, and the subjunctive. Participation in one Junior Classical League event (either the February Area Convention or the State Convention in March or April) is strongly encouraged. All students take Level 1 of the National Latin Exam in March.

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

HONORS - LATIN II LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5123

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5122 with a B+ Average

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

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

LATIN III LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5132

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5132

Course Description: In the first part of this course, students will complete their grammar education and will work to build their reading skills as they transition from textbook Latin to authentic Latin literature. The emphasis is on strategies for reading and discussing the Latin of Martial, Catullus, Vergil, Horace and Ovid. Cultural and grammatical studies based on these authors enhance enjoyment and understanding of the ancient texts read. Broader areas of Roman culture continue to be emphasized. These cultural topics include the last century of the Roman republic, the nature of Latin poetry, the political and cultural background for Augustus and the Principate, and the geography of the Roman world. There is an emphasis on understanding the formal aspects of Latin literature including the artistry of Latin word-order, and genres of literature.

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

HONORS - LATIN III LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5133

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5122 with an A Average or LAN5123 with a B+ Average

Course Description: This course is designed for students who have done well in Latin II and contemplate taking Latin IV or AP Latin the following year. The course objectives are the same as the regular Latin III class; however, the pace is accelerated and there is more reading and discussion of original Latin literature. The focus of the course is on strategies for reading and evaluating the Latin of Catullus, Martial, Vergil, Horace, and, especially, Ovid. Cultural and grammatical studies

based on these authors enhance the enjoyment and understanding of the ancient texts. Cultural topics include the last century of the Roman republic, the nature of Latin poetry, the political and cultural background for Augustus and the Principate, and the geography of the Roman world. There is an emphasis on the formal aspects of Latin literature including the artistry of Latin word-order, figures of speech, and genres of literature. Students will also practice introductory conversational skills, building their knowledge of Dickinson College's 1000 most common Latin words, strengthening their ability to produce Latin. This is a pre-AP course.

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

LATIN IV: LATIN LITERATURE THROUGH THE AGES — LAN5134

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required for Honors level | Level: Embedded Honors (Optional)

Prerequisites: LAN5132/LAN5133

Course Description: The Latin IV course is an advanced reading course, which students who are not going into the AP course may elect to take after completing the Latin III or Latin III Honors course. The bulk of the readings in the course will be drawn from the Augustan Age and the Early Principate (i.e. the Silver Age), but some attention will also be paid to later non-Roman use of Latin in the Medieval period and the Renaissance. Students who successfully complete this course may progress either to AP Latin or to Latin V.

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

AP - LATIN LITERATURE: CAESAR & VERGIL — LAN5144

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: LAN5133 with a B+ Average or LAN5134 with an A Average

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

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

CL - LATIN V: MYTH, RELIGION & HISTORY — LAN5145

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: College Level

Prerequisites: LAN5134 or LAN5144

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

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

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE

SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5103

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites:

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

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

SPANISH II LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5124

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5124

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

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

HONORS - SPANISH II LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5125

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5103 with an A Average

Course Description: Spanish II Honors serves as a continuation of Spanish I as it prepares students to better communicate in Spanish in all four-language skills—speaking, listening, reading and writing. In addition to helping students to acquire the Spanish language, the course also helps them understand the cultural assumptions of the Spanish-speaking world. Each chapter in the program is organized around a cultural or practical theme, with grammar, vocabulary, literary study, film and culture working together as an interactive unit. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere. Students will build on skills acquired in previous Spanish courses to establish a firm foundation upon which to advance their language ability. Additionally, students venture making projects to reinforce grammatical structures and real-life communication simulations in the target language. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

Major Obligation of Coursework: Formal and informal oral and written reports. Unit tests, quizzes,

auditory evaluations. In addition to the formal assessment, students will also write short story narratives focusing on creativity, grammar structures and style.

SPANISH III LANGUAGE & CULTURE — LAN5135

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: | Level: On-Level

Prerequisites: LAN5124

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

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

HONORS - SPANISH III LANGUAGE & CULTURE — LAN5136

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5125 with an A- Average

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

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

HONORS - CULTURAL IDENTITY, COMMUNITY & CULINARY TRADITIONS OF THE HISPANIC WORLD — LAN5531

Semester Offered: Fall | Credits: 0.5

Recommendation: Required | Level: Honors

Prerequisites: LAN5135; Open to Forms 11 & 12

Course Description: This one-semester course, taught in Spanish, explores the rich culinary traditions of Hispanic cultures, focusing on the history, customs, and significance of various dishes. Limited to a maximum of 12 students to ensure an interactive and hands-on experience, this class will guide students through the preparation of traditional recipes and the cultural contexts that give these dishes meaning. By engaging with historical influences, interdisciplinary topics, and real-world cooking experiences, students will gain an appreciation for how food reflects cultural identity, community, and tradition. Designed for students with intermediate to advanced level of Spanish, the course emphasizes language immersion through culinary exploration, enhancing both linguistic proficiency and cultural understanding.

SPANISH IV: LANGUAGE & CULTURE THROUGH ART AND LITERATURE — LAN5146

Semester Offered: All Year | Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required for Honors level | Level: Embedded Honors (Optional)

Prerequisites: LAN5135/LAN5136

Course Description: The primary objective of Spanish IV is the particular focus on contemporary

literature and art as well as written and oral proficiency with refining grammatical comprehension. Mastery of basic grammatical structures and enhanced reading comprehension skills and vocabulary development is based on teaching language through conversations, literary study, as well as film study. Paired and group activities will serve as an opportunity to create an interactive learning atmosphere, in which all learners are fully engaged creating different art expressions that represent Hispanic culture. Spanish is spoken exclusively in the classroom. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

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

AP - SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE LAN5147

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: LAN5136 with a B+ Average or LAN5146 with an A Average

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

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

AP - SPANISH LITERATURE & CULTURE LAN5148

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: Advanced Placement

Prerequisites: LAN5148 with a B+ Average

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

CL - SPANISH V: A CULTURAL STUDY OF LATIN AMERICA AND SPAIN THROUGH FILM, ART & LITERATURE LAN5149

Semester Offered: All Year Credits: 1

Recommendation: Required Level: College Level

Prerequisites: LAN5148 with a B+ Average

Course Description: This course offers the opportunity for students to continue developing their Spanish skills in the three modes of communication without the AP extensive requirements. The students will gain appreciation of Hispanic culture through films, art, and literature. Students will discover some unique elements of Spanish culture that will help them to understand their practices and perspectives. Class discussion and

presentations, which allow students to improve their fluency, are the predominant class activities and serve as the primary means of assessing student performance. The homework load is limited and consists mainly of reading in preparation for class activities. This course is conducted entirely in Spanish. Students are required to participate in the National Spanish Exam.

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

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