

The New School
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
Fall Semester, 2016

LANGUAGE ARTS

Creative Writing: Writing is an art and a skill and this class will delve into both. Students will engage in a variety of creative writing forms, and read works by creative writers. For those with the need, college essays and persuasive essays for the Gateway will be included.

Odysseys: Join this class to read one of the greatest adventure stories ever told. It took Odysseus ten years to get home from the Trojan War. In that time he encountered many dangers including giants, sorceresses, cannibals, and angry gods. The adventure wasn't over when he arrived home, either! After reading the original story, students will examine contemporary odysseys like the Coen Brothers' 2000 film *Oh Brother Where Art Thou?* and Charles Frazier's civil war drama, *Cold Mountain*. Papers written in this class will focus on the compare/contrast model. Students will be expected to complete nightly reading assignments and weekly writing assignments. We will also do some vocabulary work, focusing on Greek roots in English words.

Research Writing: During the first quarter students will focus on developing their research and writing skills through a series of exercises, discussions, and short essays. Time is spent exploring the writing process, learning active reading strategies, and practicing paraphrasing, summarizing, and using MLA citations. Students are expected to complete a short synthesis paper to demonstrate their proficiency with these skills at the end of the first quarter. During the second quarter, students will shift gears and develop research questions that would result in 10-12 page research papers that will meet the graduation requirements. Skills and strategies to be discussed in the class included: developing a research question; finding and evaluating resources; active reading, paraphrasing, summarizing, and quoting; developing a thesis statement; MLA documentation; outlining, organization; drafting, revising, and editing. Extensive in and out-of-class work is required for successful completion of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Latin American History (Intensive): Cuba has been in the news a lot as a result of the "thaw" between America and Cuba. Cuba will be the focus, but we will take a very detailed look at geography, history and culture of Cuba, and a little bit of Marine Biology as well. Part of this class will also be Spanish speaking units taught by Marybeth Stocking. The culminating activity will be an intensive trip to Cuba next Spring. As a result of the Cuban study, students will have a real appreciate and understanding of this Caribbean Island *prior* to going there. Not all students will be required to go on a Cuban intensive, however it will be an option for those interested. This is an amazing time to visit Cuba as a visitor will see Cuba just before it "opens" to the rest of the world in a big way.

US History: We will devote a class or two for students to decide which period(s) of American history they would like to study and in what format. In an election year with so many social changes occurring, this class will look at current events, see where those events came from and decide perhaps, where we are going as a nation.

History of Medicine: Medicine has an ancient history, from the time of medicine men and women up to today's highly specialized interventions, medications and philosophies. Why did doctors in the 1800's draw blood with leeches? Why did early doctors proscribe lead and mercury as a cure? What is the difference between an MD, an OD, a chiropractor, a Naturopath, an acupuncturist? The complex history of medical advances in times of war or epidemics are fascinating. In addition to providing a historical survey of medicine, the course will introduce students to core concepts in medical ethics. The course makes past history relevant to current debates in healthcare and public policy, and is designed to help students be lifelong healthcare advocates for themselves and others.

Philosophy (Challenge Class): We will ask the “BIG” questions, that are in our world around us -- starting with, what are the big questions. This will not be a class in which we study philosophers, but will ask ourselves some of their questions, read about these questions and then debate what we think. There will be a daily journal and will be one of the ways we will communicate back and forth. The emphasis will be on Metaphysics – “the branch of philosophy that deals with the first principles of things, including abstract concepts such as being, knowing, substance, cause, identity, time, and space.”

Public Policy: Whole school learning will center on the upcoming Elections. From that learning cycle, we will spin off internships in various areas such as a candidate, an issue, a referendum, etc. for those who need and want Public Policy credit.

Sociology: This class will examine the relationship between self, social groups and culture. Students will review a variety of social theories and apply them to real world issues while considering personal and social responsibility. Students will delve into the intersections of race, gender, and class with poverty, crime and social control. The class will consider current events and group interactions while understanding sociological perspectives different. Why do some people and groups conform while others resist and protest? What is our place in society and what role do we play? How are groups formed and how do they effect behavior? Students will work on their critical thinking skills while developing their sociological imagination.

MATH

Math 1-2: This course will start with an in-depth study of proportional reasoning. The related skills will involve similar figures, units of measure, rates, and a variety of applications. Next, you will start to learn the symbolic language of algebra and expand your skills with real numbers. Using these skills we'll write expressions and equations to represent patterns, recursive routines and simple word problems. Then we will work on solving equations with one variable, eventually including two variables. Your ability to reason and communicate will be challenged as you learn how to represent linear functions in three different ways. Statistical applications will be included.

Math 3: Mathematical communication is one of the goals. This is your opportunity to develop your visual/spatial abilities. You will draw, sketch, construct, and expand your mathematical vocabulary. There will be opportunities to use your algebra skills. We will use inductive reasoning, as opposed to deductive reasoning, to approach plane geometry. We will look for practical problems that can be solved using this knowledge.

Math 4: After learning the laws of exponents and operations with polynomials we will apply those skills to solving equations involving exponents, especially quadratic equations. These equations and their graphs have applications in science fields and business. Imaginary and complex numbers will be introduced. Next we will focus on radicals and how they are used in relation to triangles. Also, we will

study how to solve equations and use formulas involving radicals. If there is enough time, we will begin an introduction to the ratios used in trigonometry.

Statistics in The News: Statistics are everywhere. They tell facts and as readily distort truths. They are complex mathematical thinking and social, political and environmental issues. This everyday use of math is poorly understood by the general population. This class will make you a discerning consumer of the statistics people and institutions use to convince you of something.

SCIENCE

The Ecology of Biology & Sustainability: In this course, we will explore the foundation of ecology and biology, sometimes referred to eco-biology and its role in sustainability that goes beyond environmental sustainability. As the course unfolds we will uncover basic to advanced biological, ecological and sustainability principles. This course will take place indoors and outdoors and will provide students with an opportunity to co-create the syllabus.

Science Exploration: This class will introduce students to various aspects of science, from astronomy to biology, to ornithology, to chemistry and physics, environmental science, and botany. The focus areas will be decided by the class.

Hands-on Biology Lab

THE ARTS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Art: Creative approaches to Collage, Personal Mandalas, Lyrical Abstraction-drawing into painting, using words/&/or poetry as inspiration for art making, maintaining a sketchbook journal, a variety of approaches to self-portraits.

Art Open Studio: for students to develop individual interests and build their portfolios

Music: This class is all about making music together, whether instrumental or voice with a bit of music theory thrown in. It is for the enjoyment of the spirit.

Photography: Students will have a chance to develop their photographic voices. Each person sees the world slightly different and each through a different filter. The goal of this course will be to create a compelling visual narrative about your life. We will focus less on the technical aspects of photography and more on creating images to describe various parts of our lives. Each class will have a formal discussion about photographs both from students and from well known seasoned photographers. A final presentation will be put together that includes photographs from all the students and allows them to display work in a unique way.

Theater: We will produce and perform a play of the group's choice. This will involve creating scenery and costumes, acting, and learning your lines and lighting the stage.

LANGUAGES

American Sign Language 1 & 2

Spanish 1 & 2

INTEGRATED CLASSES

Experimental Design in Science and Math (Challenge Class): This class will engage in scientific experimentation to put the scientific method to active use and give students the opportunity to develop their science and math Gateways.

Building Trades: Class will emphasize building with wood. Students will learn how to use tools correctly, care for the tools, draw plans prior to building and then actually build something that will benefit The New School. This class will have us up and outside for much of the class.

Making TNS Sustainable: This is a hands-on class to make TNS an even healthier and better environment. We will begin by ripping up the carpets and laying hardwood floors, room by room. We will help build the new Greenhouse, and figure out together what the other projects we can do to improve the school. It will be fun and physical and result in real improvements.