



The
Overlake School
EST. 1967

Upper School

Course Catalog 2025-26



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Please visit Overlake.org to learn more about our programs and to contact Overlake department chairs for more information.

Arts

The Overlake Arts department mission is to engage students in creative thinking through a broad spectrum of opportunities.

Visual Art

Upper School 9th - 12th Grade (electives)

Drawing	Graphic Design	Stagecraft
Sculpture	AP Art History	Advanced Studio Art
Industrial Design	Painting	Mixed Media
Video Production	Photography	Yearbook

Advanced Studio Art

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: One semester Upper School visual art elective.

Advanced Studio Art is for the student who has taken at least one US Visual Art class in Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, or Mixed Media, and has a desire to explore the medium more fully. This class is an intermediate to advanced level course, where students will be expected to work independently and responsibly on each chosen project with supervision and guidance from the instructor. Students will have the studio space to make a body of work in the medium (or mediums) they have selected, including - but not limited to - painting, sculpture, drawing, 2-D or 3-D design.

Drawing

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

US Drawing is an introductory course with emphasis on basic drawing skills using a variety of materials and techniques. Drawing is a fundamental activity in the visual arts which involves critical thinking, learning to ask questions, and making judgments. This course introduces students to a visual art vocabulary that helps to interpret and understand works of art. Students will be challenged to deepen their experience as an artist by experimenting, taking creative risks, practicing, receiving constructive feedback, reflecting, revising, and refining work over time.

Exploring Art History

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Art has been around longer than the written word, and it is a very powerful method of communication. In this semester course students will focus on art from around the world - sacred places, expressions of power and authority, the human body, revolutionary shifts in artistic expression, and other student-generated themes. Students will learn the symbolism in art and the stories behind the works of Basquiat, Banksy, Gentileschi, and Vermeer, among others.

Exploring Art History will provide students with the language with which to discuss all types of art (i.e., painting, sculpture, architecture, and modern forms) from a variety of historical periods (ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary.)

Students will visit a local museum, practice the language of art history, and choose the direction of some of the course material. In lieu of a final exam, each student will research a topic and present a PowerPoint presentation.

Graphic Design

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

Graphic Design is web sites, signs, products, books, clothing, and more! Basically, it's everywhere! In this course, students will learn how to use design as a means of visually communicating ideas. Students will learn *Adobe Photoshop*, *Adobe Illustrator*, *Procreate*, and use hands-on materials to produce logo designs, posters, food packaging, book jackets, and more. In addition, students will learn about different designers and what it means to work in the Graphic Design field as a career. This is a great course for those who want to apply their creativity to a

practical application and for those who want to learn new skills in the visual arts.

Graphic Design is everywhere. It's the web sites you use, the signs you see, on the products you use, the covers of the books you read, the logos and labels on the clothing you wear, and so much more more! In this course, students will learn how to use graphic design as a means of visually communicating ideas. Students will learn *Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, ProCreate for iPads*, and use hands-on materials to produce logo designs, posters, food packaging, and more. In addition, students will learn about different designers and what it means to work in the Graphic Design field as a career. This is a great course for those who want to apply their creativity to a practical application and for those who want to learn new skills in the visual arts.

Industrial Design

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: One semester of any visual art elective.

This visual art class will introduce students to industrial design by developing concepts and specifications through drawing, making prototypes, and analysis of data found through trial and error. Students will use a variety of materials to create prototypes of their designs and learn traditional skills such as working with metal, woodworking, and project layout. In addition, students will gain experience and skills for working with CAD software and CNC hardware. Student projects will require creative problem solving, critical thinking, and experimentation through design.

Media Production

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

Media Production is a hands-on course where students explore the world of video, audio, and digital media creation. In this class, students will learn the fundamentals of producing content using industry-standard tools and software, including *Adobe Premiere, After Effects*, and *Audition*. Through individual and group projects, students will develop skills in storytelling, camera operation, sound design, and post-production. Whether creating short films, podcasts, or digital content for social media, students will gain practical experience that prepares them for further study or careers in media production.

Mixed Media Art

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

This hands-on course is a general introduction to the visual arts, with an emphasis on skill building and exploring a wide variety of materials and techniques. Students will work on two- and three-dimensional projects and learn basic drawing and painting skills, while focusing on the important

elements and principles of art. This course will emphasize experimentation and creative risk taking.

Painting

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

US Painting is an introductory course which teaches basic painting skills using a variety of painting materials and techniques. This course introduces students to a visual art vocabulary that helps to interpret and understand works of art. Students will be challenged to deepen their experience as an artist by experimenting, taking creative risks, practicing, receiving constructive feedback, reflecting, revising, and refining work over time.

Photography 1

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

We all have the ability to take picture with the fancy, tiny computer in our pockets, but how can you take *great* photographs that say something beyond the "selfie" and the candid? Looking at and creating photographs is an incredible way for people to connect, and to appreciate the world around us. This course will help students become thoughtful fine art photographers through shooting and editing photographs using digital cameras (DSLR)*, cell phone cameras, and *Adobe* programs. Each student will build a web site portfolio and make prints to show off their work. ***Students do not need to have their own digital camera to take this course.***

Photography 2

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Photography 1. If you have prior photography experience, but have not taken a course at Overlake, you will need to show examples of your work and get written permission from Danielle Troy.

Photography 2 is a deeper exploration of photography as fine art. Students will continue working with digital photography while focusing on creativity through skill building. We will spend time viewing photographs in all genres from around the globe and explore the more personal side of making art. Photography 2 also allows students to explore film photography and darkroom printing. Tools used for this class will be cell phone cameras, smartphone apps, digital SLR cameras, *Adobe Photoshop* and *Lightroom*. ***Students do not need to have their own digital camera to take this course.***

Sculpture 1

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

This hands-on course is an introduction to sculpture in the visual arts. Students spend the semester experimenting with 3-dimensional forms, shapes, balance, techniques, and materials. We will emphasize trial and error, along with experimentation, and move from traditional to experimental skill building and conceptual ideas. *Sculpture 2* is offered depending on student interest and availability.

Stagecraft

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective. Students will be required to spend four hours outside of class at work parties or similar production events over the course of the semester.

In this course, students will work as a production team to design, coordinate, and construct the technical elements for productions and concert events in the Fulton Performing Arts Center. Students will be involved in all phases of each project. The design process includes script analysis, brainstorming, design selection and creating construction drawings or models. The construction process involves skills of carpentry, painting, rigging flown in scenery, and special effects. Additionally, students develop working knowledge of lighting and sound aspects of theater. Finally, Stagecraft is involved in the strike of all scenery, properties, lighting, sound and special effects. This course is designed for students who wish to have a hands-on experience in "making theater happen."

Yearbook Production

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Full-year elective. Meets two days a week after school. Students in yearbook cannot participate in more than one season of athletics.

Help decide what's covered in the Overlake Odyssey while also developing editing, design and photography skills. Yearbook staff will brainstorm what theme to choose, as well as what topics to include, and everyone works on a variety of pages throughout the year. The main goal of this year-long class is to produce a high quality yearbook. One credit is earned for successful completion of Yearbook.

Advanced Film & Media

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Prerequisite: One semester of Graphic Design, Media Production, or Video Production - or permission of the instructor.

Advanced Media Production is a hands-on course for students to produce storytelling content for authentic audiences in the digital media platforms of their interest. Students will choose a media platform and software as a concentration and work through the full production process individually or in groups. Concentrations include

podcasting, documentary production, animation, UX (user experience) design, social media marketing, web design, or graphic design. Students will use industry standard software relevant to their concentration, including *Adobe Audition, Premiere Pro, After Effects, Illustrator, Photoshop, Procreate, Figma*, or other relevant resources. Topics also include project management, post-production workflows, and an introduction to emerging technologies in media. Students will develop a digital portfolio of published work from the course.

AP Art History

Grades Offered: 11, 12

AP

Elective

Not offered this year

The College Board has completely redesigned this course—only 250 images! The new curriculum is organized around the following units: Global Prehistory; Ancient Mediterranean; Early Europe and Colonial Americas; Later Europe and Americas; Indigenous Americas; Africa; West and Central Asia; South, East, and Southeast Asia; The Pacific; and Global Contemporary.

The course has two primary goals: first, to teach students to visually analyze works of art; and, second, to teach students to understand works of art within their historical context—i.e., its intended use, audience, and role in a particular society, sociopolitical concerns, gender issues, patronage, function and setting.

The AP Art History course is the equivalent to a beginning college course. The material and concepts covered, as well as the time required for reading and research, will reflect this designation. The AP Exam is in the spring. Students who do not take the AP Art History exam are required to take a final exam.

Music

Upper School

9th - 12th Grade

(electives)

Chamber Choir

Concert Choir

Concert Band

Jazz Band

Orchestra

AP Music Theory

History of Rock & Roll

Chamber Choir

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective; Full-year commitment preferred.

Prerequisite: By audition only, spring of previous year. Previous choral experience is recommended, but not required.

The Overlake Chamber Choir is a select vocal ensemble open to all upper school students **by audition only** (the audition will include matching pitch, sight-reading, a short melodic exercise, and assessing the student's ability to sing independently within a 4-part ensemble.) Members should possess skills in musicianship, teamwork, collaboration, and leadership. This course will emphasize healthy vocal production, ensemble skills, music theory, sight singing, and creating a positive group dynamic. Musical focus will be placed on a variety of styles and languages, and the study of challenging choral repertoire, both accompanied and a cappella.

Concert Band

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Zero Block elective. Full year recommended; may be taken as a semester course.

Prerequisite: Skill proficiency on one of the instruments listed below.

This course is designed to advance performance skills in a symphonic ensemble setting, and to offer further leadership experience to upper school students wishing to hone their skills and technique on their instrument. Emphasis is placed on refining the basic skills of intonation, dynamics, articulation, balance, blend, and phrasing through rehearsal and performance of a variety of concert band, pep band, and jazz repertoire. There is no limit to the number of instruments that can participate in this group. Concert band instruments include trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone, tuba, flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, percussion and string or electric bass.

Concert Choir

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Zero Block elective. Full year recommended; may be taken as a semester course.

The Overlake Concert Choir is a performance ensemble class designed for all grades in the upper school, regardless of previous singing experience. This is a great course for singers of all skill levels, particularly those who wish to begin the study of voice and choral singing. Students will rehearse choral literature in many styles and languages in preparation for the Winter Concert (December), the Spring Concert (April or May), school assemblies, graduation, and other performance opportunities throughout the year. This course will emphasize healthy vocal production, ensemble skills, basic music theory, strong group dynamic and collaboration, and sight singing.

History of Rock & Roll

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

The 1950s saw the growth of a new kind of popular music called Rock and Roll. This class will explore the many genres that were connected to this new creation, including rhythm; blues, jazz, country, and gospel styles. Students will also examine the musicians and performers that made the biggest impact during the 50s and 60s, and into the current world of popular music.

Jazz Band

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: New players interested in auditioning must currently be enrolled in Concert Band. Auditions will be held in the Spring of the previous year for enrollment in the fall. Interested students should see the director for a set of

audition music as early as possible in order to prepare an audition.

The Overlake Jazz Band is an active ensemble, performing frequently on and off campus for a variety of audiences. The musical focus will include a variety of jazz standards from the big band and be-bop eras as well as contemporary swing and jazz/rock compositions. Students in Jazz Band are required to commit to a rigorous rehearsal/practice schedule and several community performances throughout the year. In addition to performance repertoire, classroom activities will include the study of improvisation, memorization of scales, and the opportunity to work with guest artists. Proficiency on saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, guitar and drums is required.

AP Music Theory

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Not offered this year

AP Music Theory is a college-level course designed to cultivate an understanding of music and how it is structured. Students will analyze performed and notated music and explore the concepts of pitch, rhythm, form, and musical design. Although this course will focus on music theory that is based on Western European notation, it is just one of many ways of listening and writing music, so other styles and genres will be studied for context and comparison. Students will prepare for the AP Music Theory exam in May, and their final project will be an in-depth study of a piece of music and attendance at a live performance of that piece in the Seattle area.

Please note: Although there are no official prerequisites for AP Music Theory, prospective students should be able to read and understand musical notation and have basic performance skills with voice or an instrument in order to successfully keep up with the rigor of this course.

String Orchestra

Grades Offered: 7-12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Zero Block elective. Full year recommended; may be taken as a semester course.

Prerequisite: At least two years previous string playing experience; proficiency determined by instructor.

The Overlake String Orchestra is open to string players in grades 7 through 12 with at least two years of previous playing experience, or permission of the instructor. This ensemble plays three concerts a year featuring music for string orchestra and small chamber ensembles, as well as selected works including woodwinds and brass, and concertos featuring student soloists. There are opportunities to perform in solo and ensemble festivals at both the middle and upper school level. Emphasis is on developing and improving ensemble and individual performance skills, as well as sight-reading ability. Repertoire will include music from a variety of composers and genres.

Theater

Upper School

9th - 12th Grade

(electives)

Stagecraft

Play Production

Video Production

Musical Production

Theatrics

Intro to Performing Arts

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Have you wondered what all the elements are in the performing arts? This workshop explores drama, film acting, improvisation, stage combat and dance. How do we make meaning in the performing arts? Reading modern and classical plays, watching movies and scenes, and considering social justice in art are all part of the process of finding deeper meaning in the human condition. **No experience necessary.**

Musical Theater Production

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Previous theater experience is recommended, though not required.

This semester-long course is designed for students with particular interest in musical theater performance. In this course, students will have the opportunity to integrate their skills in acting, singing, and dance in a challenging and intricate musical theatre production. Past productions include *Into the Woods*, *The Spitfire Grill*, *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Big Fish*, and *The Addams Family*. Students taking this class must approach their craft of acting with professionalism and leadership. The cast will be required to commit to a rigorous rehearsal schedule in the final weeks before performance which includes after school and weekend commitments.

Play Production

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Prior theater experience is preferred, but not required. Availability for after school rehearsals is required during the weeks prior to performance.

This semester-long class is designed for acting students with particular interest and experience in acting and stage

performance. This class culminates in a production that will be presented for the school community as well as for the public. Students taking this class must approach their craft of acting with professionalism and leadership. The course will focus on auditions, script analysis, acting methods, movement and vocal work, and performance preparation. Past productions include *Love/Sick*, *Macbeth*, *12 Angry Men*, *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Radium Girls*, *Almost, Maine* and *Our Town*. The cast will be required to commit to a rigorous rehearsal schedule in the final weeks before performance which includes after school and weekend commitments.

Theatrics

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

In Theatrics, we will explore a variety of different ways to create theatre. Students will explore acting methods, voice over work, musical theatre, stage combat, gore makeup, and even a directing unit! Come experience a new way to look at the world of theatre. **No experience necessary, but a willingness to engage with new ideas is a must!**

English

The Overlake English Department fosters a passion for learning through the study of literature and writing.

Upper School 9th - 12th Grade

English 9: Finding Your Voice



English 10: Speaking Your Truth

Upper School 11th and 12th Grade

AP Language and
Composition

AP Literature and
Composition

Upper Level English
Courses by Themes
and Skills
(electives)

English 9

Grade Offered: 9

Required

The theme for English 9 is "Finding Your Voice" which we will explore through both internal and external lenses as we examine not only how our unique voices are shaped, but also how our voices can create change in the world. Throughout the year, each student will be challenged to find, use, and expand their voice, as well as to examine the voices of the authors we study. This course features a variety of active speaking opportunities including seminar-style discussions, group presentations, formal speeches and debates, dramatic vignettes, and impromptu speeches. Writing projects include formal analytical essays, short stories, journal-style creative writing, position pieces, and poetry. Because knowing ourselves as learners is as valuable as the learning itself, students will frequently self-reflect on their progress as readers, writers, speakers, and critical thinkers throughout the duration of the course. Readings will include a variety of classic and modern short stories and poetry, choice reading books, and longer key texts such as *Night*, *The House on Mango Street*, and *A Raisin in the Sun*. Through long-term projects, students will learn executive functioning skills such as back planning, chunking, and time management. A required part of this course is attending office hours in order to foster students' interpersonal communication and self-advocacy skills, as well as to personalize their learning experience in this class.

- Who do you want to be?
- What choices do you have to make?
- How do you express yourself?
- Where does that take you?

This year, we will build upon the reading, writing, and discussion skills established in 9th grade. Students will write personal responses and a variety of analytical essays; we take a process-oriented approach that equips students with pre-writing, writing, and editing strategies to tackle different types of writing. Building upon the discussion and public speaking skills developed during the 9th grade, students will take more leadership in group discussions. The texts in English 10 expose students to different voices and possibilities about how individuals understand themselves within their respective worlds. Overall, we hope that students become increasingly comfortable with ambiguity and come to appreciate a variety of stories.

Advanced Topics in English: Cinema as Literature

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This is a course that will examine films as texts through historical, artistic, and/or thematic analysis. Similar to how many English courses read traditional literature (novels, short stories, etc.) as a learning tool, this course will ask students to "read" a variety of films. This could include traditional cinema (feature films/movies), documentaries, short films, and/or television programs, all from a variety of genres or animated / live-action styles. This course may focus on the history and craft of film as an important communication tool, the art of crafting a thoughtful story through motion images, or a combination of the two.

English 10

Grade Offered: 10

Required

English 10 is the second year of a two-year sequence that introduces the fundamentals of close reading and literary analysis by examining different literary genres. English 10 picks up where English 9 ends and thematically focuses on "Speaking Your Truth." To that end, English 10 is guided by the following four essential questions:

Advanced Topics in English: Interdisciplinary Connections in Literature

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This is a course that will examine how literature is a reflection of the greater human experience. You can expect to consider the connections between literature and nonfiction works and other disciplines such as history, current events, science, ethics, and more. Students can expect to read a variety of genres and media, from long-form texts to poetry, journalism, short stories, films, biographies, memoirs, and more. The course will focus on essential questions about human experiences and how we consume information through the written word.

Advanced Topics in English: Social Justice & Literature

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This is a course that will examine the voices of historically marginalized communities, how art and literature elevate those voices, and how history and/or current events create, reinforce, and challenge systemic inequality. In this class, you can expect to read from a variety of genres and formats – from novels, short stories, and poetry, to editorials, biographies, and other non-fiction pieces.

AP English Language and Composition

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

AP

As a junior or senior year English course, AP Language and Composition focuses primarily on American non-fiction texts. The course undertakes a rigorous study of rhetoric and argumentation, mirroring the content and level of assignments found in introductory college-level composition courses. Students respond directly to a wide variety of American readings from the early years of democracy to contemporary life: letters, speeches, essays, novels, short fiction, articles, and image-based texts. In addition to the chief emphasis on non-fiction and political rhetoric, other anchor texts for the course include *Fast Food Nation*, *Just Mercy*, and *The Things They Carried*. The course addresses the essential questions of the American experience: What is the American Dream of success, and have all groups had an equal opportunity to pursue it? What are the philosophical underpinnings of American social and political thought, and how do Americans approach and respond to conflict in these realms? In the fall, students delve into the elements of rhetoric that authors use to influence their audiences: the classical rhetorical appeals, tropes, schemes, tone, syntax, diction, imagery, and symbolism. Spring work includes mastering the formal elements of argumentation and the researched synthesis argument essay on an issue of controversy in American society. Students use these understandings and close reading habits to improve their own writing through emulation and adaptation. The end goal is for students to use the lens of rhetoric to comprehend and evaluate any text by analyzing language with critical precision. The

College Board notes that the course “cultivates the reading and writing skills that students need for college success and for intellectually responsible civic engagement.”

AP English Literature and Composition

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

AP

AP English Literature and Composition is designed to provide students with a college-level approach to reading, writing, and critical analysis in advance of the National Exam in May. Students will examine a wide range of genres and periods, ranging from Antiquity to the 21st Century, in order to consider how and why authors create meaning in various texts. They will read poetry, prose, drama and satire, as well as philosophical works and literary theory in order to provide insight into questions of textual production, authorship, theme, and symbolism. Students will be asked to consider how certain topics, such as identity, power, trust, love, oppression, isolation, and struggle are interpreted by authors in different cultures and time periods. Moreover, they will be encouraged to reflect upon how these universal ideas relate to their own lives. Through their writing assignments and projects (including a longer research paper), members of the class will get the opportunity to engage with broad questions by means of close analysis. In other words, they will use their interpretations of specific texts as a way to think about universal dilemmas.

Beyond the American Dream

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

The American Dream is alive and well and available to anyone. But is it, really? What does it mean when we hear that someone has “achieved the American Dream”? What belief systems are we reinforcing? What assumptions are at work? This course will draw upon fiction, memoir, essays, poetry, and comics (with authors such as F. Scott Fitzgerald, Zora Neale Hurston, James Baldwin, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Elizabeth Acevedo, Kamala Khan, and Amanda Gorman, as well as artists from the Harlem Renaissance) to question the limits of the American Dream. We will consider the role that gender, race, sexuality and other identifiers play in our access to the American Dream. Questions we will explore include: What is the myth of the American Dream? How do elements of our identities influence our definition of and access to the American Dream? Is the American Dream an attainable—or even worthwhile—pursuit? Students will complete a range of assignments—analytical essays, personal reflection, narrative writing, poetry, and presentations—as they grapple with these questions. One of the goals of the course is to think critically about the systems of power and privilege at work in any conversation about the American Dream.

Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year Spring semester elective.

“Biography, Autobiography, and Memoir” explores the art of

personal storytelling and the ways individuals construct and share their identities through narrative. Students will engage with a range of texts—including traditional biographies and autobiographies, graphic memoirs, and documentaries—exploring how these works navigate memory, truth, and self-representation. This course encourages reflection on how personal narratives connect to larger cultural and historical contexts. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Literature and the Law

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Fall semester elective.

“Literature and the Law” explores the intersection of storytelling and legal principles. Students will study fiction, non-fiction, and real legal cases, analyzing how literature reflects, critiques, and shapes societal views on justice, morality, and human rights. The course encourages critical thinking about the role of law in both literature and real-world issues. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Radical Empathy: Finding Meaning in the World Around Us

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This senior elective explores central questions surrounding what it means to engage meaningfully in the world: What do people seek in their connections with others? Why? What do we pursue in our lives and why are those things important to us? How do humans respond to hardship and pain? What is authentic empathy, and what role does it play in our daily interactions with others? The class will read a mix of fiction and nonfiction with primary readings from: Colum McCann, Emily St. John Mandel, M.K. Asante, Sonali Deraniyagala, and Eli Saslow. In addition to exploring the questions through the readings, students will grapple with their ideas in analytical and reflective writing. The material will push students to develop their reading, writing, and discussion skills so that they can think more deeply about their own experiences right now and be fully prepared for the challenges they encounter in the future.

Reading the Pacific Northwest

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year Fall semester elective.

“Reading the Pacific Northwest” explores the rich literary, musical, and artistic traditions of the Pacific Northwest. Students will analyze local literature, poetry, and songs, examining how these works reflect the unique landscapes, history, and cultures of the region. This place-based English course fosters a deeper connection to the local environment, encouraging a deeper understanding of

regional identity through the lens of artistic expression. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Science Fiction and Philosophy

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Spring semester elective.

“Science Fiction and Philosophy” explores the intersection of speculative fiction and philosophical inquiry. Students will study contemporary and classic science fiction literature and film, examining questions about ethics, existence, technology, and the future. This course encourages critical thinking about how fictional worlds challenge our understanding of reality, society, and the human condition. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Seriously Funny: The Rhetoric of Humor

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This course explores how comedic texts and performers – from around the world and close to home -- challenge our perception of reality as well as our societal and political assumptions. Some feel that humor moves our society forward and humanizes the experiences of others, whereas others feel that humor reinforces stereotypes and solidifies divisions. We will examine the dangers inherent in such controversial expression and the power that humor can bring to marginalized voices. The course considers satire, parody, and humor found in essays, stories, poetry, drama, songs, political cartoons, memes, film, television, and stand-up comedy. We will also examine current libel laws, the extent of free speech, disgraced writers /performers, and possibly banned texts. Students will write analytical pieces, teach and provide class material, practice emulating humorous forms, complete the senior research paper, and perform or create a final capstone project that is seriously funny. Ellen DeGeneres and the cast of *Saturday Night Live* will fly in to teach several classes. JK. In her place, an Overlake alum has offered to make cameo appearances.

Tell Me a Story: The Power of Stories in Human Experience

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Tell Me a Story: The Power of Stories in Human Experience aims to engage students through reading stories by American writers:

1. for inspiration
2. to provide insight into the varieties of human experience
3. to enhance close-reading skills for appreciation of

writing techniques for various purposes in telling a story

4. to write analytically and creatively in response to readings and discussion.

The course is discussion-based and will include opportunities for student choice of stories to read and discuss. The instructor will also choose stories for the class to read and discuss including fiction, nonfiction, podcasts, music, film, and plays. Students will write to analyze stories, craft creative writing work (your own stories), and explore questions emerging from research on how and why stories do what they do.

Voices of Resistance and Resilience

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

***Not offered this year* Spring semester elective.**

"Voices of Resistance and Resilience" explores the power of literature and art more broadly in shaping movements for social change. Students will study works from historically marginalized communities, exploring themes of protest, survival, and empowerment. This course encourages critical thinking about how creative expression has been used as a tool for resistance throughout history. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Voices of the Harlem Renaissance

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

***Not offered this year* Fall semester elective.**

"Voices of the Harlem Renaissance" explores the transformative cultural and intellectual movement of the 1920s. Students will study the literature, music, and art that emerged from Harlem, analyzing how these influential artists and thinkers shaped American identity, race, and social change during this pivotal era. This course encourages critical connections between the Harlem Renaissance and future movements in civil rights. English electives will feature comparable assessments and workloads, ensuring a balanced academic experience across courses. Second semester electives will also include a research component.

Future Selves

Grade Offered: 12

Elective

***Not offered this year* Full-year elective.**

This course could be called androids, aliens, and monsters, oh my! From a dystopic world where math reigns supreme to an alternative present-day where time-bending aliens make first contact, from a brilliant scientist's monstrous creation to a young woman's search for self against the backdrop of an intergalactic university, this course will draw upon both classic science fiction and more contemporary speculative fiction to introduce students to key elements of the genre. Students will explore the themes of science fiction as a way to understand social issues and problems

of the human condition as represented in literature, television, and film. Students will read authors such as Mary Shelley, Ted Chiang, Isaac Asimov, Octavia Butler, N. K. Jemisin, and Nnedi Okorafor. Students will also watch the iconic films *Metropolis* and *Bladerunner* among others as well as watch popular television shows like *Star Trek* (original series and *The Next Generation*) and *The X-Files*. Questions we will consider include: What does it mean to be human? What if there are other life forms "out there"? What can we learn about ourselves from "the other"? Students will write analytical and reflective pieces as well as practice emulating the elements of science fiction in their own original writing as they think critically about the ever-changing world around them.

Experiential Education

Explore the unknown, Learn by doing, Lead by example, and Cultivate life-long learning.

Ethical Leadership

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Fall semester elective.

This course will explore the central concept of ethical leadership. Because this is a complex topic, students will wrestle with the uncertainty and ambiguity that accompany any discussion of morality. Students will work introspectively to examine their personal leadership styles in order to gain a better understanding of their own extrinsic and intrinsic motivations before looking outward. Students will also take an interdisciplinary approach to explore the concept of ethical leadership by examining wider perspectives that will be gained through reading theory and case studies. As we unpack the concept of ethical leadership by looking at ourselves and others, we will explore several defining questions, including:

- How does ethical leadership apply to my life presently, as well as in my future?
- What are the responsibilities of leaders to establish ethical climates in their organizations and communities, and what are the tensions between these two spheres?
- What is the role of emotional intelligence and empathy in a leader's decision-making and how does compassion connect with morality and ethical decision-making?

Students will develop a toolbox they can reach for when faced with ethically complex challenges in their lives beyond the classroom. Ultimately, this course will push students to better understand the pathways through which they are already making ethical decisions, and as they reflect and learn, they will start to think about ethical leadership in deeper, more complex ways. Life is about navigating the gray areas—the complexities that don't have a clear one-size-fits-all answer—and this class will foster an ethical fitness in students to help build their propensity for not just working their way through that ambiguity, but for leading others in that process.

This class will feature a highly interactive learning environment, requiring students to reflect, take risks, and actively engage in class activities and discussion each day. There will be a term long leadership internship with middle school teachers culminating in a written capstone/presentation of the students' leadership statement. There is a degree of risk-taking involved in being a leader that students will gain experience with through the format of this class.

Outdoor Education

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Overlake outdoor education programs emphasize cooperation, perseverance, judgment, and leadership by creating an experience in which wilderness activities challenge students to take healthy risks, to be in an

environment where they need to take responsibility for their own actions, and to cooperate with others. Whether students are backpacking, snowshoeing, or sea kayaking, they will also develop an appreciation for the natural environment and learn the skills necessary to undertake various activities in the outdoors.

Theory and Practice of Social Change

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

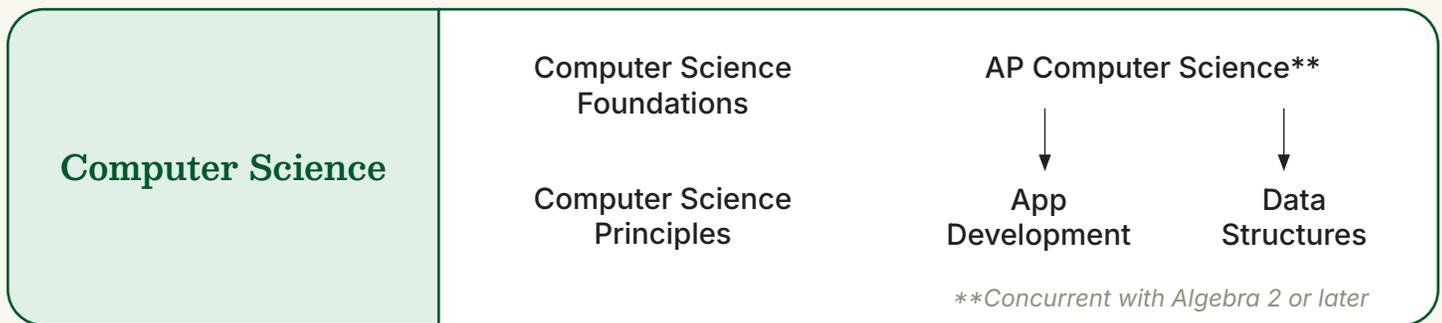
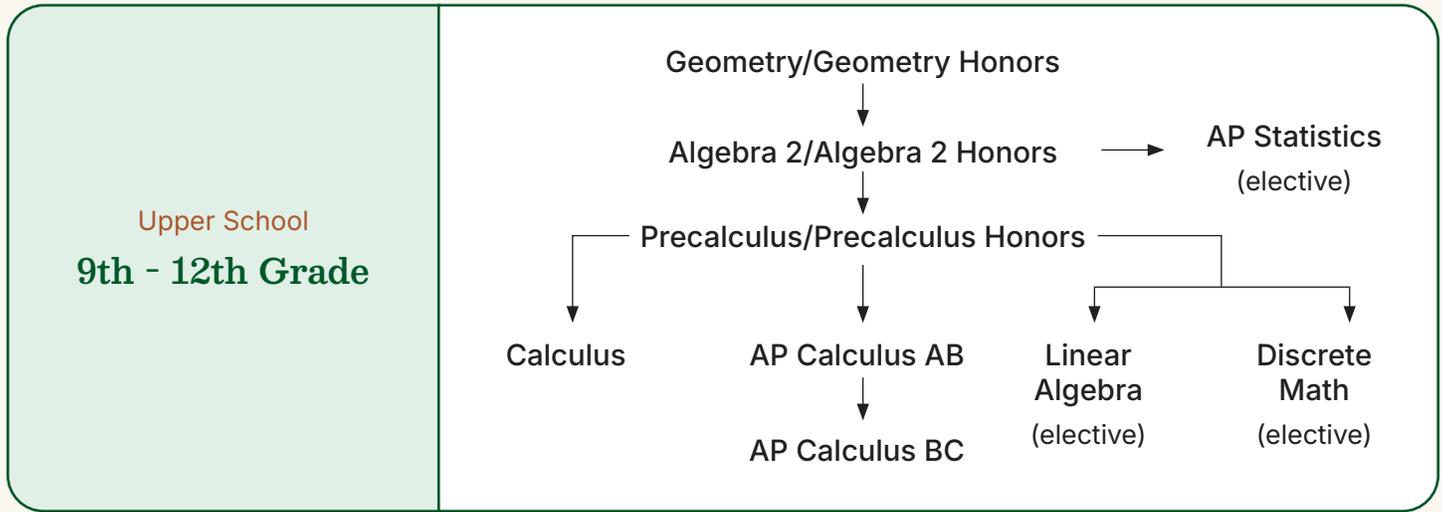
This course will prepare students to be thoughtful and effective agents of change within organizations and communities. Through theoretical foundations, skill building, and practical application of social change theory in community settings, students will explore the following questions:

- What is the history of the non-profit sector in the United States, and how has that history shaped social change work today? What are the limitations of non-profit organizations in the advancement of justice?
- Besides the non-profit sector, in what other contexts do social change movements operate? What strategies do movements employ and to what effect?
- How do my social identities and personal narratives impact my perspectives, realities, and worldviews? How do they impact my role in social change work?

Students will navigate these questions by learning from legacies of social change-makers, collaborating with community-based groups/organizations, engaging in dialogue with each other, and developing a reflexive practice (attending to the cultural, political, social, and ideological origins of one's own perspective and voice). Students will be required to participate in a two-day community engagement field trip during school hours, TBD days in January, 2024, followed by deeper engagement with one organization throughout the semester. This course both uses and questions best practices in "service-learning," including identifying issues of reciprocity, cultural humility, power relationships, and links to classroom learning. Students will demonstrate skills and habits of reflection through observation, critical analysis, writing, and engaging with others in supportive discourse. Students will engage with a diversity of texts and experts in the social change field, examine community opportunities and solutions of personal relevance, and reflect on their own past and present experiences of social change within various spheres of life, including families, neighborhoods, communities, schools, and other systems.

Mathematics and Computer Science

The Overlake Math & Comp Sci Department provides students with the foundations necessary for college as well as 21st-century careers.



Geometry

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra

The purpose of the traditional full-year course in Geometry is twofold. It is important that students learn the properties and relationships among geometric figures. Primarily, however, the study of geometry provides fundamental insight into how an axiomatic system works. Development of logical and critical thinking skills and communication with precise language and symbols is emphasized. Special attention is given to writing sound mathematical definitions, formulating reasonable postulates, and proving claims about geometric figures. Both the honors and the regular level classes provide review of algebraic concepts throughout the year in preparation for Algebra II.

Honors Geometry

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra and current teacher's recommendation.

The purpose of the traditional full-year course in Geometry is twofold. It is important that students learn the properties

and relationships among geometric figures. Primarily, however, the study of geometry provides fundamental insight into how an axiomatic system works. Development of logical and critical thinking skills and communication with precise language and symbols is emphasized. Special attention is given to writing sound mathematical definitions, formulating reasonable postulates, and proving claims about geometric figures. Honors-level students are expected to achieve a high degree of mastery and be able to work independently. Advanced topics may be integrated into the honors course at the discretion of the instructor. Both the honors and the regular level classes provide review of algebraic concepts throughout the year in preparation for Algebra II.

Algebra II

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra and Geometry

This course is designed to greatly expand students' understanding of functions and to broaden the algebraic skill set. Students explore polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational and radical functions as well as special functions and conic sections. Students deepen their understanding by investigating the inverses of functions.

Properties and evaluation of functions, techniques in problem-solving, and inequalities are addressed throughout the year. All of the topics in this course are explored both analytically and graphically, with and without the aid of a graphing calculator. Both honors and regular Algebra II will address a core curriculum necessary to the study of Precalculus.

Honors Algebra II

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra and Geometry, and current teacher's recommendation.

This course is designed to greatly expand students' understanding of functions and to broaden the algebraic skill set. Students explore polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, rational and radical functions as well as special functions and conic sections. Students deepen their understanding by investigating the inverses of functions. Properties and evaluation of functions, techniques in problem-solving, and inequalities are addressed throughout the year. All of the topics in this course are explored both analytically and graphically, with and without the aid of a graphing calculator. Honors-level students are expected to achieve a high degree of mastery and be able to work independently. Advanced topics may be integrated into the honors course at the discretion of the instructor. Both levels of Algebra II will address a core curriculum necessary to the study of Precalculus.

Precalculus

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra II and Geometry.

In the fall, students gain broader and deeper understanding of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions by further investigating their properties and applications. In the spring, a thorough study of trigonometric functions completes the skill set necessary for the study of calculus. Both honors and regular Precalculus will address a core curriculum necessary to the study of Calculus.

Honors Precalculus

Grades Offered: 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra II and Geometry, and current teacher's recommendation

In the fall, students gain broader and deeper understanding of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions by further investigating their properties and applications. In the spring, a thorough study of trigonometric functions completes the skill set necessary for the study of calculus. The honors-level class will apply skills to more difficult, multi-stage problems and move at a faster pace. Honors-level students are expected to achieve a high degree of mastery and be able to work independently. Advanced topics may be integrated into the honors course at the discretion of the instructor. Both levels of Precalculus will address a core curriculum necessary to the study of Calculus.

AP Calculus (AB)

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Prerequisite: Precalculus and current teacher's recommendation.

The workload, pace, and content of this course is comparable to a college-level calculus course covering limits, continuity, differentiation, and an introduction to integral calculus. Topics in differential equations are also introduced. The College Board AP Calculus AB exam is administered nationally by all participating schools on a predetermined date in May. The College Board website provides the exam date and detailed description of the curriculum, which must be covered in its entirety. Students should expect a high degree of independent learning. Some colleges and universities offer college credit or advanced placement to students passing the exam at a high level. Students are encouraged to investigate these possibilities.

AP Calculus (BC)

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Prerequisite: Calculus and current teacher's recommendation.

First-year concepts of differentiation and integration are extended to polar, parametric, and vector functions. Students master new methods for evaluating limits, evaluating integrals, and solving differential equations. Series and tests for their convergence as well as power series and polynomial approximations are studied. The workload, pace, and content of this course is comparable to a second or third semester course at colleges and universities.

Calculus

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus

This capstone course in high school mathematics introduces students to the concepts of differential and integral calculus. This course provides a rigorous alternative introduction to Calculus without the stress or focus on preparing for an AP exam. Fall semester includes derivatives, related rates, curve-sketching and optimization. Spring semester introduces definite and indefinite integrals, area and volume. Through practice with applied problems, students learn to communicate their methods using appropriate language, symbols and units. A solid understanding of geometry, functions, and trigonometry is necessary for success in this course. Students who complete this course can still elect to take AP Calculus AB the following year.

Linear Algebra

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Precalculus or Precalculus Honors.

Linear algebra is a branch of mathematics studying linear

equations and their relationships to matrices and vector spaces. This topic is a fundamental component of many important mathematical applications including finance, cryptography, artificial intelligence, web search, computer graphics and more. The course will cover the basic elements of a college-level Introduction to Linear Algebra course, including: matrix algebra; determinants; elementary vector spaces; linear transformations; and characteristic equations and eigenvalues. As time and resources permit, students will use computing technologies to create and explore applications of linear algebra.

Discrete Mathematics

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Precalculus or Precalculus Honors.

Discrete Mathematics is the study of mathematical structures that are discrete, separated or distinct; in contrast with Calculus which deals with continuous change. It is an important area of pure and applied mathematics, as well as providing the mathematical basis for the understanding of computers and modern computation. Discrete Mathematics is also important in the sciences, where it has increasing application in many areas, an exemplar of which is the understanding of DNA sequences in molecular biology. This course will cover topics based on instructor and student interest such as Boolean logic; enumerative combinatorics; recurrence relations; relation theory and lattices; voting theory; theoretical computer science and computability theory; and graph theory.

AP Statistics

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Full-year elective. This course is intended as a second math elective and cannot be taken in lieu of a course in the normal sequence until the senior year. Even seniors are strongly encouraged to take their regular math course concurrently.

Prerequisite: Algebra II.

This course is cross-listed in Information Literacy & Technology.

The purpose of the AP course in statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes:

1. Exploring Data: Describing patterns and departures from patterns
2. Sampling and Experimentation: Planning and conducting a study
3. Anticipating Patterns: Exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation
4. Statistical Inference: Estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses

Successful AP statistics students have good quantitative reasoning, good reading comprehension, clear written communication and consistent study habits. Students will

be challenged to think critically about data, to use statistical methods with a deep level of understanding, and to write persuasive responses to real-world questions. A graphing calculator will be the student's constant companion.

Computer Science Principles

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Not offered this year

No computer science or programming prerequisite required. This course is cross-listed in Information Literacy & Technology.

Computer Science Principles is an introductory computer programming class. Students are introduced to ideas and concepts and explore the development of projects based on student ideas. Students also develop a basic understanding of the underlying architecture of the internet and world-wide web. Topics include event-driven programming, data structures, networking architecture, cryptography, and data manipulation. Over the course of the semester students will use an online curriculum and an online development environment to develop Android applications on their own physical devices.

AP Computer Science

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Full-year elective. This course is recommended as a second math elective. Seek departmental advice if taking this course in lieu of a course in the normal sequence.

Prerequisite: Algebra II.

This course is cross-listed in Information Literacy & Technology.

AP Computer Science covers the course content defined by the College Board's AP curriculum and prepares students for the advanced placement exam in May. The course teaches the Java programming language and reviews and elaborates on the fundamental methods of object-oriented programming. Much of the material is based on the implementation and analysis of common data structures including arrays and array lists. Basic algorithms for sorting and searching are presented and their asymptotic behavior is analyzed. Students enhance their program design, implementation, testing, and debugging skills through frequent programming projects. Finally, they gain experience reading, understanding and modifying a substantial pre-existing program.

Post-AP CS: Data Structures

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Computer Science or equivalent. Questions about permission should be emailed to the department chair.

Programming Language: Java. The AP Computer Science prerequisite course prepares students with little to no prior experience to understand and engage in object-oriented programming with the Java language. This course gives

students the skills generally attained during the second course in a college-level CS introductory sequence. The goals of this course build upon and extend the content from the AP course, requiring a thorough understanding of the previous learning objectives. This course primarily presents concepts of data abstraction and encapsulation. The structures taught and implemented include stacks, queues, linked lists and binary trees, as well as comparisons to arrays and array lists. Students also gain experience with recursion, analysis of complexity, and use of predefined collection classes. They use the concepts presented in class to create, debug, modify, and test a variety of programming projects of differing complexity.

Post-AP CS: App Development

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Semester elective.

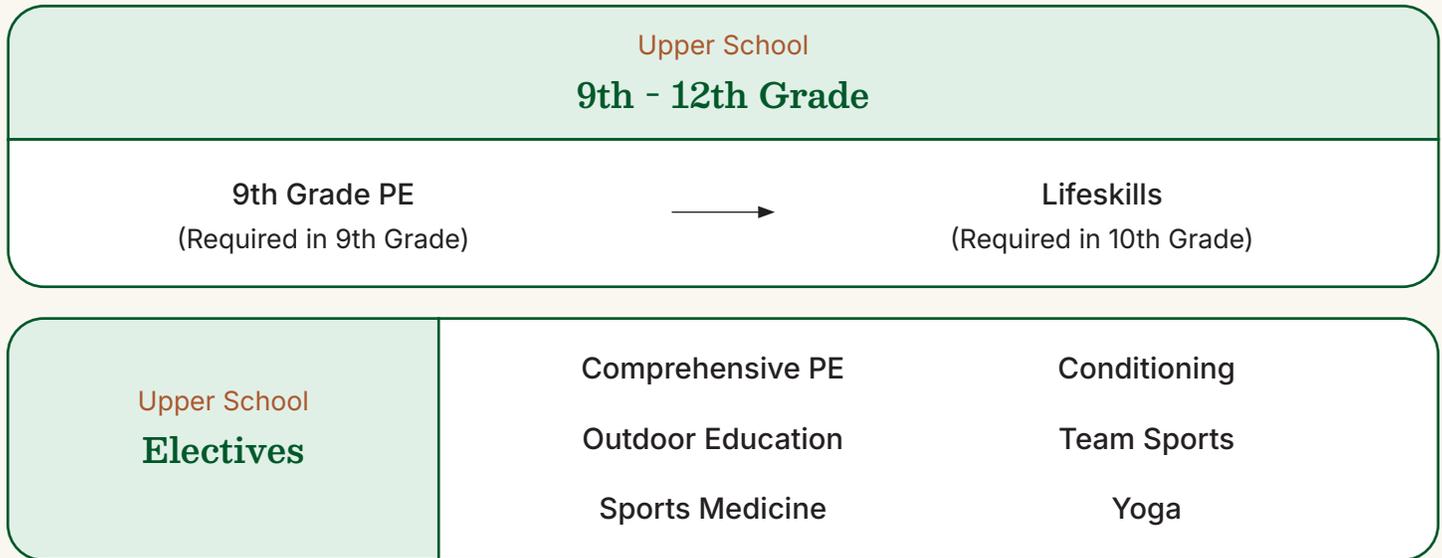
Prerequisite: Successful completion of AP Computer Science or equivalent. Questions about permission should be emailed to the department chair.

This course is cross-listed in Information Literacy & Technology.

Programming language: Java. Students with a working knowledge of object-oriented programming fundamentals in java will be given the opportunity to further practice and extend those skills in this applied course. This course focuses on student engagement in the learning process through a practical, collaborative approach that allows for a creative and authentic experience. The majority of activities will be centered around learning and practicing the details of developing mobile apps using core OOP principles and various APIs available. Concepts related to the process rather than coding, such as best practices of mobile development and strategies of completing large projects in teams, will be presented and implemented as well. The final goal of the course will be to complete, in a group, a thoroughly polished Android app incorporating all skills learned during the semester.

Physical Education

Physical Education is an essential part of the total Overlake educational process.



9th Grade PE

Grade Offered: 9

Required

Required for all 9th grade students. All 9th graders will be automatically enrolled in this course.

This course is an introduction to upper school physical education. It will include components from each of the elective courses offered at Overlake.

Our main objectives in this course are to:

1. Give our students the opportunity to explore different aspects of physical education in order to give them more intentional options for future PE classes
2. Conduct specific fitness tests in order to determine areas of strength and weakness
3. Help students demonstrate competency in a variety of motor skills
4. Help students apply knowledge of concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics related to movement and performance
5. Encourage students to demonstrate the knowledge and skill necessary to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of physical activity and fitness

All 9th graders will be placed in this course and there is an option to take this course during the school day and at the zero block hour.

Outdoor Education

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This course will provide students with the opportunity to learn about leadership and wilderness first aid in the classroom while gaining skills and experience in the out-of-doors on weekends. Students will attend class during the academic day for 4 times out of the 8 day cycle throughout fall semester and have free block for the remaining days.

Students will also be required to participate in a 4 day backpacking trip. Students will then need to participate in at least 4 days worth of trips over the course of the year to complete this credit, with one of these trips as an Upper School Leader on a Middle School trip. In the classroom portion students will be required to pass a wilderness first aid course addressing all of the major causes and treatments of problems and injuries in the wilderness. Students may select trips that introduce them to low-impact camping, backpacking, map and compass navigation, kayaking, rafting, snowshoeing, rock climbing, backcountry skiing, mountaineering, and wilderness first aid. The class will be limited to 12 people to accommodate wilderness use size limits. Fall trips have included: river kayaking, mountain biking, hiking, rock climbing, whitewater rafting, sea kayaking, backpacking, avalanche awareness, mountaineering, and wilderness first aid. Spring trips have included: mountaineering, winter camping, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, backcountry skiing, mountain biking, whitewater rafting, sea kayaking, avalanche safety, and rock climbing.

Lifeskills

Grade Offered: 10

Required

10th grade requirement.

As a college-preparatory school, core academic skill areas are a major focus to inspire excellence and to develop intellectual curiosity. To further Overlake's mission to teach responsibility, embrace diversity, and foster a compassionate community, core lessons in the Lifeskills curriculum focus on understanding and competency in skills beyond academic subject areas necessary in developing the "whole student" and leading to interpersonal, physical, and professional success. Issues related to personal responsibility, safety, effective communication, and decision-making are explored in an activity-oriented classroom, where discussion, hands-on practice, and guest speakers provide students with meaningful opportunities

for gaining knowledge and developing competency in areas vital for responsible participation in adult life. Units include Social-Emotional Wellness, Cultural Competency, Mental Health and Wellness, Physical & Sexual Safety and Wellness, and Basic Competencies.

Comprehensive PE

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

Comprehensive physical education provides the opportunity for students to participate in traditional and non-traditional sports, individual activities, racquet sports, recreational sports, and lifetime activities. These games involve some competition but this is not the focus. The emphasis is on learning skills, rules, and strategies for each activity. Playing with teamwork, demonstrating sportsmanship, and learning to use the equipment safely are also key concepts in this course. To promote and encourage student input, class members will work together to choose the sports or activities they would like to explore during the semester.

Conditioning

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

This class is designed for anyone interested in performance enhancement and injury prevention. There is a strong emphasis on solid fitness principles, which center around learning efficient movement patterns. Students learning is focused on three main areas; recovery, nutrition, and strength training. Students will participate in different modes of training in order to solidify solid physical preparation skills. These modes of training also help students learn and practice safe, effective, and efficient training techniques. The course will explore ways to recover and prepare for physical work, nutrition to support the basic needs of any person or athlete, the 6 basic movement patterns, and how to incorporate them into training. Students who wish to focus on a specific area such as strength, speed, power, endurance, agility, and/or flexibility needed to improve performance in a specific sport or activity will be guided to design and follow a self-directed program.

Introduction to Sports Medicine

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective. Open to 11th and 12th grades, and to students in 10th grade by permission of the teacher.

Introduction to Sports Medicine is a class for students who would like to learn about the human body and how it relates to human function, injury/prevention or injury, and treatment of injury as well as dealing with emergency situations and First Aid/CPR. Students will use a combination of group projects, laboratory activities, and classroom tasks to learn and use the training skills and leadership skills required of an athletic trainer. Students will be expected to complete a minimum of 3 events (athletic contests/games) of practical training outside of the classroom as part of the class requirements. Events can also be accumulated by helping

after school in the athletic training room. During this time students will be expected to act in a professional manner, assist as needed, and work to master the skills they have been introduced to in the classroom. Students may select the events or times they wish to cover, but there will be a limited number of spots depending on the event. Students may not cover events in which they are involved (e.g. basketball player covering own basketball game).

Team Sports

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

Basic game skills and game strategies will be taught in this course with an additional emphasis on learning game rules. Team sports may include basketball, soccer, flag football, volleyball, gola, team handball, lacrosse, softball, floor hockey, field hockey, cricket, ultimate frisbee, netball, fistball, korfbal, rugby, and fitness drills specific to the sport. To promote and encourage student input, class members will work together to choose the sports or activities they would like to explore during the semester.

Yoga

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Semester elective.

This class is designed for individuals interested in learning and practicing the art of yoga. This yoga study will blend styles of Hatha (Gentle), Vinyasa (Flow), Ashtanga (Power), Iyengar (Alignment), and Kundalini (Breath) yoga. Benefits of this collection of studies will include a focus on alignment through postures or use of props, weight-bearing exercise, and increasing flexibility through breath connection to movement. Yoga establishes a framework for lifelong fitness, developing core strength, safe stretching practices, health, and well-being rooted in kinesiology and philosophy. Students will increase awareness of skeletal and muscular systems while deepening strength, balance, flexibility, and focus through various sequences of yoga asanas or postures. Students will learn how yoga may enhance, repair, relax, or rebalance the muscles and the mind given all the demands of modern life. Additionally, students will complete reflective written assignments each quarter establishing goals, intentions for practice, reflecting upon progress and concepts for emphasis in future practice.

Athletics for PE Credit

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Eligibility: Only Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors may apply for Athletics for PE credit.

Requirements: To earn PE credit, students must participate in two Overlake sports seasons within the same school calendar year.

Seniors cannot count a spring sport from their Senior year toward this credit.

Athletics for PE does not replace 9th grade PE or Life Skills.

Maximum Applications: Students may apply for Athletics for PE credit up to two times. To earn the full 1 PE credit, students will need to complete two sports seasons in two separate school years (Junior and/or Senior years, or Sophomore year if a spring sport is included).

To apply, fill out [this form](#) once you have completed your second sports season each year.

Science

The aim of the Overlake Science department is to capitalize on students' curiosity to engage them in a rich exploration of the natural world.



Upper School
Full-Year Electives*

AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP Physics
AP Environmental Science

Upper School
Semester Electives*

Anatomy and Physiology
Forensic Science
Net Zero 2050
Global Health

**Upper-Level Science Electives (courses subject to change)*

Life on Our Planet

Grade Offered: 9

Required

Required 9th grade course. Formerly called BioChem I.

In this course, ninth graders engage in the practices of science to explore life at different scales, from the chemistry of biological molecules to the global flow of matter and energy. Students explore the relationship between molecular and cellular structures of organisms and their life functions, the transmission of traits across generations, the role of evolution in driving biodiversity, and the interdependent relationships between living things and Earth's environment. Emphasis is placed on constructing explanations for biological phenomena, including the ability to connect structure to function and model the interactions among different scales of a system.

Earth's Chemical Systems

Grade Offered: 10

Required

Prerequisite Needed

Full year option for 10th grade science.

Prerequisite: Life on Our Planet (formerly BioChem I).

In this course, students investigate atomic and molecular structure, chemical reactions, and conservation and transfer of energy on the atomic and global scale. Through an

exploration of atomic structure, students explain trends in elemental properties, chemical bonding, radioactivity, and generation of nuclear power. Chemical bonding in turn drives differences in the physical and chemical properties of matter. Students model how substances combine and change via collisions to explain rates of reaction and energy changes. Emphasis is placed on developing particle-level models, analyzing data, and mathematical reasoning to explain phenomena.

Earth's Chemical Systems: Honors Option

Grade Offered: 10

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Full year option for 10th grade science.

Prerequisite: Life on Our Planet (formerly BioChem I) plus recommendation of 9th grade teacher. Algebra II is a required co-requisite.

In the honors option for Earth's Chemical Systems, students will explore the same concepts as in the non-honors course, though the depth and pace of the course will reflect a higher level of rigor. The honors section is best suited for students who tend to pick up concepts more quickly and can master introductory problem-solving strategies with fewer examples needed. This allows the class to investigate more advanced applications of concepts and to solve more complicated problems. As an honors level course,

it is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy skills.

Physics of Our Universe

Grade Offered: 11

Required

Prerequisite Needed

Full year option for 11th grade science.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II)

Physics of Our Universe is a year-long, laboratory-based course based on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The class integrates Physics, Earth and Space Science, and Engineering Practices. Topics to be investigated include Forces and Motion, Momentum and Collision, Energy, Rotational Motion, Space Science, Waves, and Electricity and Magnetism. Each unit is anchored by relevant phenomena and several student-centered labs and/or investigations. By using science and engineering practices, evidence from experiments, research, and observations, students will learn how to formulate questions, evaluate claims, use mathematics and computational thinking, and develop models to make interpretations and investigate the natural world.

Physics of Our Universe: Honors Option

Grade Offered: 11

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Full year option for 11th grade science.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II) and recommendation of current science teacher.

In the honors section of the physics class, students will explore the same concepts as in the non-honors course, though the depth and pace of the course will reflect a higher level of rigor. The honors section is best suited for students who tend to pick up concepts more quickly and can master introductory problem-solving strategies with fewer examples needed. This allows the class to investigate more advanced applications of concepts and to solve more complicated problems. As an honors level course, it is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy skills.

AP Biology

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Year-long elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II) and recommendation of 10th or 11th grade science teacher.

This year-long course focuses on the central ideas of biology. The course focuses on fundamental principles of evolution, cell structure and function, genetics, and ecology. The curriculum is demanding its scope and its level of sophistication, with emphasis placed on the application of biological principles to explain experimentally derived data and results. Students will read a variety of materials from

textbooks to online scientific journals. As an AP course, AP Biology is equivalent to a first-year college biology course and often ends with taking the Advanced Placement exam in May. It is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy. Students should expect to spend roughly an amount of time working outside of class equal to that spent in class. Lab reports and special projects may add to this time.

Reproductive Biology

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Not offered this year

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems.

Why do most animals need a partner to reproduce – and why are there some that don't? Why are males and females so different in appearance and behavior in many species? How can a single cell become a complex, coordinated being with hundreds of tissue types and trillions of cells working together? In this class, students will explore the topic of reproductive biology through evolution, physiology, and development. They will learn how natural and sexual selection have shaped the myriad reproductive strategies employed by the plants and animals of the world. Students will explore the processes of sexual differentiation and development in animals and humans, with a focus on the hormones that shape our brains and bodies. Students in this course will be engaged in a variety of laboratory and research projects. Adequate preparation for class is required and students should expect regular homework.

AP Chemistry

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Year-long elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II) and recommendation of 10th or 11th grade science teacher.

This year-long, college level course expands upon many of the topics introduced in earlier courses. Students will begin with a study of the nature of matter, examining topics ranging from atomic structure to the structure and properties of matter to chemical reactions. An in-depth, experimental approach to the study of the behavior of matter will occur through an examination of reaction kinetics, equilibrium systems, and thermodynamics. Laboratory work plays a key role in the structure of the course, with emphasis placed on the application of chemical principles to explain experimentally derived data and results. While the Advanced Placement test is an important goal, emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills. As an AP course, AP Chemistry is equivalent to a first-year college inorganic chemistry course. Therefore, it is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy skills. Students should expect to spend roughly an amount of time working outside of class

equal to that spent in class. Lab reports and special projects may add to this time.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

Grade Offered: 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Year-long elective.

Prerequisite: Physics of Our Universe (formerly Physics) and recommendation of physics teacher, plus completion or current enrollment in calculus.

This year-long college level course is an in-depth, calculus-based study of physics. It addresses the concepts of mechanics introduced in Physics of Our Universe but delves into the topics with much greater depth by employing an experimental and quantitative analytical approach to the material. Topics for study include Newtonian mechanics, the work-energy theorem, momentum and impulse, angular momentum, circular motion, rotational kinematics, dynamics and statics, and simple harmonic motion. All these topics will be covered at the calculus-based level and use of calculus in problem-solving and derivations increases as the course progresses. As an AP course, AP Physics C is equivalent to a first-semester college mechanics course. Therefore, it is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy skills. Students should expect to spend roughly an amount of time working outside of class equal to that spent in class. Lab reports and special projects may add on to this time.

AP Environmental Science

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Year-long elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II) and recommendation of 10th or 11th grade science teacher.

The goal of this course is to provide students with the scientific principles, concepts, and methodologies to understand the complexities of environmental science. This involves investigating the flow of matter and energy through the living and non-living parts of the planet; identifying and analyzing environmental problems both natural and human-made; and examining solutions for resolving and/or preventing those problems. This course promotes environmental literacy to enable informed decision-making regarding issues that impact the environment and society. Additionally, this course will help establish and build a sense of stewardship for the environment, illustrating throughout the course that one person can make a difference. Environmental science is an interdisciplinary study that draws from the biological, physical, chemical, and earth sciences, as well as social sciences such as economics, politics, and sociology. Critical thinking and problem-solving applications are emphasized. As an AP course, AP Environmental Science is equivalent to a first-year college course. Therefore, it is expected that students enter the course with strong work habits, complete homework on a nightly basis, read independently for understanding, and demonstrate self-advocacy skills. Students should expect to

spend roughly an amount of time working outside of class equal to that spent in class. Lab reports and special projects may add on to this time.

Anatomy & Physiology

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Life on Our Planet (formerly Biochem I), plus teacher recommendation for 10th graders.

The purpose of this class is to study the structure and function of several systems in the human body (circulatory, respiratory, digestive, excretory, endocrine, and reproductive). With an emphasis on the concept of homeostasis, students will examine the mechanisms by which these systems support the process of life. This course makes regular use of case studies. Students will act as detectives to diagnose patients and link symptoms of a disease to the underlying physiological causes. Students in this course will be engaged in a variety of laboratory projects, dissections, and model building exercises to gain a deeper understanding of body systems. They will also be asked to exercise their intellectual and creative capacity by researching a disease and presenting their findings in a case study of their own. Adequate preparation for class is required and will involve regular homework.

Forensic Science

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Life on Our Planet (formerly Biochem I), plus teacher recommendation for 10th graders.

This cross-disciplinary, lab-based course will pull from knowledge in the fields of biology, chemistry, and physics to explore the science involved in forensic investigations. The class will feature hands-on learning as students analyze evidence and make conclusions based on their findings. Investigations will include analysis of blood evidence (such as blood typing, blood spatter, and DNA fingerprinting), physical evidence (such as soil and glass particles), trace evidence (such as hair and fibers), fingerprints, ballistics, forensic chemistry, and a look into modern biotechnology. Students will present their findings in a variety of ways, ranging from tests and quizzes, to papers, to presentations. An emphasis will be placed on continuing students' development in the practices of science, such as analyzing and interpreting data, engaging in argument from evidence, planning and carrying out investigations, and constructing explanations. Due to the hands-on nature of this course, adequate preparation for class is required and will involve regular homework.

Net Zero 2050

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Not offered this year

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II)

There is consensus among climate scientists that we need to prevent the earth from warming by more than 1.5°C to avoid experiencing the most severe consequences of Climate Change. This requires decreasing our greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. Achieving this goal requires unprecedented, rapid, and far-reaching transitions in energy, industry, buildings, transportation, land-use, and cities. This will be one of the greatest scientific, industrial, economic, political, and societal challenges that humanity has ever faced. We know that this will be a monumental task, but how exactly can this be done? In this course, students will learn the physics, chemistry, biology, and earth science behind the solutions to the Climate Change crisis. They will address questions such as:

- What are the advantages and disadvantages of different renewable sources of energy? What are the associated costs?
- How can we store energy so it is available when it is needed most?
- How can we electrify the transportation sector?
- How can we design homes that produce all the energy they use, with enough left over to meet our personal transportation needs?
- How can we remove carbon from the atmosphere?

Students in this course will be engaged in a variety of laboratory and research projects. They will develop their data analysis, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. They will work independently and collaboratively, with the end goal of creating a detailed plan for how to decarbonize our economy and society. This course will help to prepare students for their future and allow them to take advantage of new career and business opportunities.

Global Health

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Not offered this year

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems (formerly Biochem II)

What makes people sick? How is the cause and spread of disease studied and assessed? What are key factors that determine health and well-being for all populations? What are the biggest challenges in global health today and how are these challenges being met? These questions lie at the heart of the study of global health and infectious disease. This course will enable students to develop an understanding of the nature of infectious disease and explore how this class of disease continues to be a central determinant for the health of all populations. Tackling the issue of global health and infectious disease from a variety of perspectives, our work will focus on developing an understanding of the basic concepts of infectious diseases, dynamics of disease transmission, as well as the impact that emerging and reemerging infectious diseases have on society. Students in this course will be engaged in a variety of laboratory and research projects. Therefore, adequate preparation for class is required and will involve regular homework.

Astronomy

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Semester elective. This course is equivalent to the Astronomy 101 course offered at the University of Washington, and may be taken for 5 UW credits.

This semester-long course is an introduction to the universe, with an emphasis on conceptual rather than mathematical comprehension. Topics include modern theories of the universe, evolution of galaxies, quasars, stars, black holes, planets and solar systems. Current observational and research techniques will be explored through laboratory work. Students will have opportunities to utilize telescopes in both direct and remote observing. Major themes of astronomy which will be addressed in this course include:

- How has our understanding of our place in the Universe evolved over time?
- How are astronomers able to describe and understand complex phenomena utilizing only the light received from distant sources?
- What is the role astronomy plays in our daily lives, and in the future of humanity?

Materials Science

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Not offered this year

Semester elective.

Prerequisite: Earth's Chemical Systems.

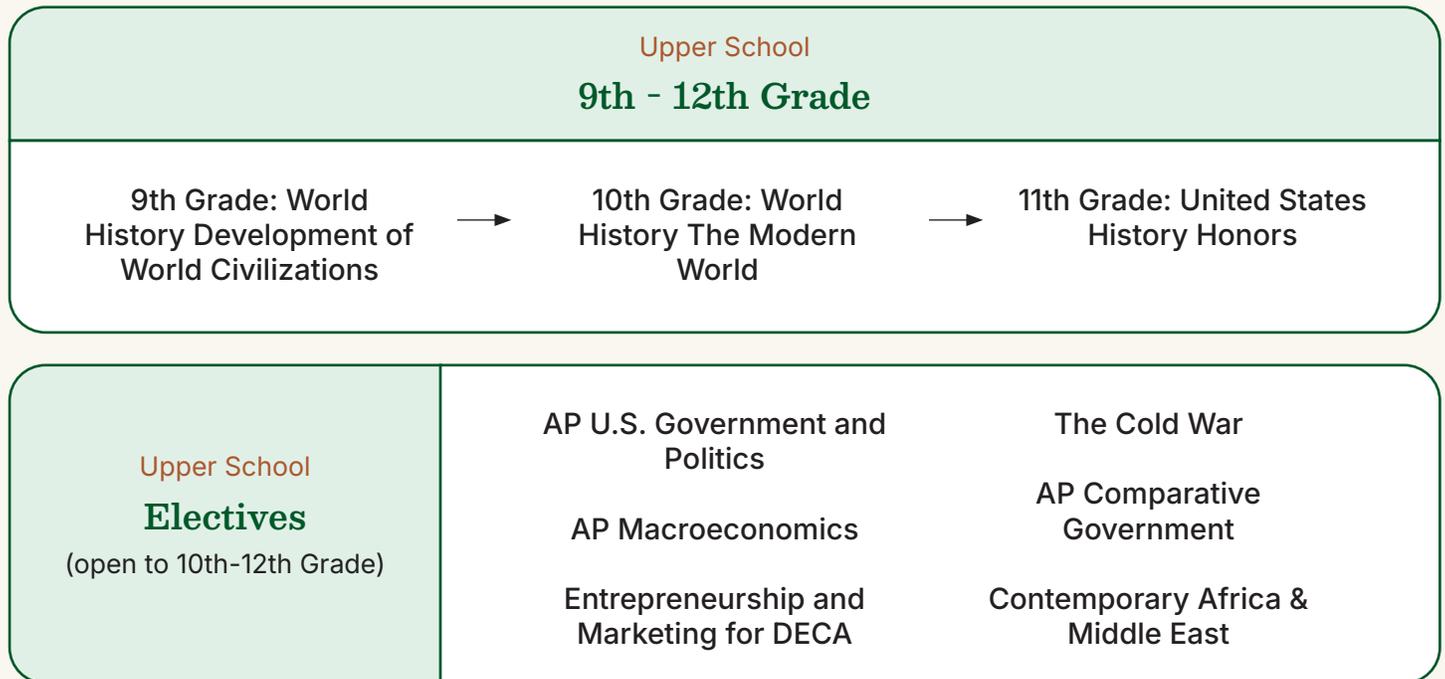
The course will introduce students to the fascinating world of materials science with a specific focus on daily polymers and composites. Materials Science is an interdisciplinary field that plays a crucial role in our daily lives, from the products we use to the technologies we rely on. By exploring the structure, process, properties and applications of polymers and composites through designed hands-on activities, students will

- gain a fundamental understanding of thermoplastic and thermoset materials.
- understand the molecular structure, classification, and properties of polymers.
- investigate the effects of temperature, composition and reinforcement on polymer properties.
- examine real-world application of thermoplastic and thermoset polymers and composites in industries like aerospace, automotive, construction etc.
- discuss the environmental impact of thermoplastic and thermoset polymers and composites.
- explore recycling and sustainable practices in materials science.

Assessment and Evaluation: Students will be evaluated through a combination of assessments, including quizzes, exams, laboratory reports, and project presentations. Class participation and engagement will also be considered in the final evaluation.

Social Studies

The mission of the Overlake Social Studies department is to create a challenging, relevant, and engaging curriculum to inspire our students to become critical thinkers, effective communicators, and active and open-minded citizens of the world.



World History 9: Development of World Civilizations

Grade Offered: 9 **Required**

In Grade 9 Social Studies, we examine the development of early human societies. In the first semester, we start with a brief unit exploring how history is written, by whom, and why that matters. Then we examine the social, political, economic, and cultural systems of the kingdoms of Nubia and Aksum in northeast Africa, the Qin and Han Dynasties in China, the Roman Republic in the Mediterranean, and indigenous societies in Central/South America and Pacific. In the second semester, we explore the changes that occurred as those global regions became increasingly interconnected through the spread of religious beliefs, trade networks and the exchange of knowledge/ideas, new technological innovations, and war/conquest.

Students work on a range of skills, including analytical writing, research, and effective public speaking (both in oral presentations and seminar discussions).

World History 10: The Modern World

Grade Offered: 10 **Required**

In Grade 10 Social Studies, students gain an extensive knowledge of major changes and events of the 19th and 20th centuries in various parts of the world. Through varied and engaging activities in class and major assignments, they improve their skills in critical thinking, writing, discussing, presenting, and researching. By the course's end, students have gained an improved understanding of political, social,

and economic world developments from 1800 to 1960. We focus on themes of equality and justice, how major changes occur, and make links between what has happened in the past with events happening at the present.

AP Comparative Government

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12 **AP** **Elective**

The AP Comparative Government course focuses on the political institutions and processes of six different countries—China, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, and the United Kingdom—and compares the ways they address problems. Students will look at political parties and electoral systems, regimes and governments, economic and political change over time, and political culture and behaviors. Students will connect political concepts to real-world situations and analyze data to find patterns and trends across political systems. Students will be tasked with projects, case studies, and written assessments in conjunction with preparation for the final AP exam in May.

AP Human Geography

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12 **AP** **Elective**

Full-year elective.

AP Human Geography is a year-long introduction to topics and analysis of human geography. The course challenges students to evaluate data and physical geography through patterns and spatial organization, human impacts and interactions with the environment, and spatial processes and societal changes. Geopolitics, human migration,

cultural processes, land-use, industrialization and economics, as well as fundamentals of geography and maps including statistical analysis and modeling, make up the body of the course. Students will explore concepts through projects, case studies, and written assessments in conjunction with preparation for the final AP exam in May.

Contemporary Middle East and Africa

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

This course undertakes an interdisciplinary and contemporary view of the Middle East and Africa to understand in greater depth the history, economies, politics, social change, and arts of these important regions. Coursework will include a variety of source material and experiential learning.

Ethnic Studies

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

One semester elective.

The Ethnic Studies course will engage students in the study of the historical and current socio-cultural experiences of racial and ethnic groups in the United States. This course will explore a number of issues affecting ethnic groups and will look at how their experience has been shaped by our social, legal and economic systems over time. We will tackle the history of racial discrimination, the resilience of the different groups studied and the promises of the future that come with a multi-cultural and diverse population. Students will have the opportunity to learn about a diverse group of ethnic groups, and also will be able to study a specific group or issues affecting a group during the semester.

Intro to Psychology

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

One semester elective.

The study of psychology is the study of the how we think, feel and behave. This course is designed to give students an introduction to this subject by examining the major psychological perspectives including Behavioral, Cognitive and Social-cultural. This class will cover topics such as development, perception, learning, motivation and personality. Through reading, demonstration and experimentation, students will gain a better understanding of who they are and how they function. They will also learn how broad the field is and how it applies and can be applied to their own lives.

Popular Culture in the US

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

One semester elective.

This course will explore US history since 1915 through the lens of music, film, and television. The course will examine how our culture both reflect and challenge ideas about race, class, gender, sexual morality, and US politics. Students will explore the role of culture in shaping social movements and public opinion, how technology has shaped how Americans consume culture, and the effects of mass culture and subculture on American society and politics. Units include: rise of mass culture through film and radio in the 1920s, cultural responses to the Great Depression, the rise of television and post-World War II mass culture, the Cold War in American culture, the rise of subcultures in the 1960s and 1970s, and how the development of new technology is shaping how Americans consume culture today. Assessments include source analyses, critical reading of cultural sources as primary sources, and an essay on a topic of each student's choosing that synthesizes multiple cultural sources to foster a deeper understanding of the impact of popular culture in the United States.

Rising Tides: Environmental Justice

Grades Offered: 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

One semester elective.

This course will address topics related to the history of environmental justice from a variety of disciplines and perspectives. Coursework will include readings, field trips, studies of current events, discussion, and writing.

Honors United States History

Grade Offered: 11

Required

The third year in the three-year U.S. history sequence (with Grades 6 and 8), this course is a study of significant events and patterns in United States history. This is not a survey course; rather, the course is thematic. We want students to develop critical thinking and communication skills, explore topics in depth, and make connections to current events. Therefore, the course focuses primarily on the 19th to 21st centuries and past events are connected to life in the U.S. today.

As a result of taking this course, students will:

- Increase their knowledge and understanding of U.S. history.
- Increase their understanding of how past events inform the present.
- Become more informed and engaged citizens.
- Strengthen their critical thinking skills, including their ability to construct persuasive oral and written arguments.
- Increase their understanding of differing perspectives on key issues.

AP Macroeconomics

Grades Offered: 11, 12

AP

Elective

Full-year elective.

AP Macroeconomics is a year-long, basic college level course that provides a general understanding of basic

macro-economic concepts. In a time when there is so much discussion about priorities in the economy, business cycles, climate change, international trade, inflation and unemployment, this course will help students understand both how the economy functions and the alternative choices that we have. Students will gain a solid understanding of government fiscal, monetary policies, and international trade and how they impact employment, GDP, and growth. There are daily references to what is currently in the news such as the impacts of COVID, and students are constantly applying the theories to contemporary economic, political, and social issues. We will use a range of resources including graphs, charts, data analysis and videos to describe and explain economic concepts. We will also make use of resources in the community for case studies. Students will also research and present to the class on aspects of the economy.

AP U.S. Government and Politics

Grades Offered: 11, 12

AP

Elective

Full-year elective.

The AP U.S. Government and Politics course challenges students to analyze and interpret the intentions of the various institutions that comprise the American political system and the U.S. government. The practical and theoretical understanding of policy-making and power as it pertains to Constitutional principles, federalism, political parties, interest groups and the media, and individual rights and liberties serves as the foundation of the course. Students will explore concepts through projects, case studies, and written assessments in conjunction with preparation for the final AP exam in May.

Entrepreneurship and Marketing for DECA

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

One semester elective.

This course will help students understand not only how enterprise and marketing can be used to build a firm for profit, but the principles and strategies can be used to solve many social and political problems. Students will be able to apply their learning in this course to DECA online challenges and competitive events. The course involves mostly active, project-based learning.

The Cold War

Grades Offered: 11, 12

Elective

One semester elective.

By understanding the historical development of the Cold War from multiple geopolitical perspectives, students will examine the legacy of the Cold War period as it relates to current international relations. The course digs into the origins of the Cold War, providing an overview of the different economic and political systems that characterized the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Examination as to how the Cold War affected Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America from multiple perspectives will provide context for topics like the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Soviet-

Afghan War, and the Space Race. Discussions, simulations, primary-source readings, and student-designed projects will enable students to understand the legacy of the Cold War as it relates to twenty-first century geopolitical relationships and the continued diplomatic struggles that continue to affect our world today.

The Cold War

Grades Offered: 11, 12

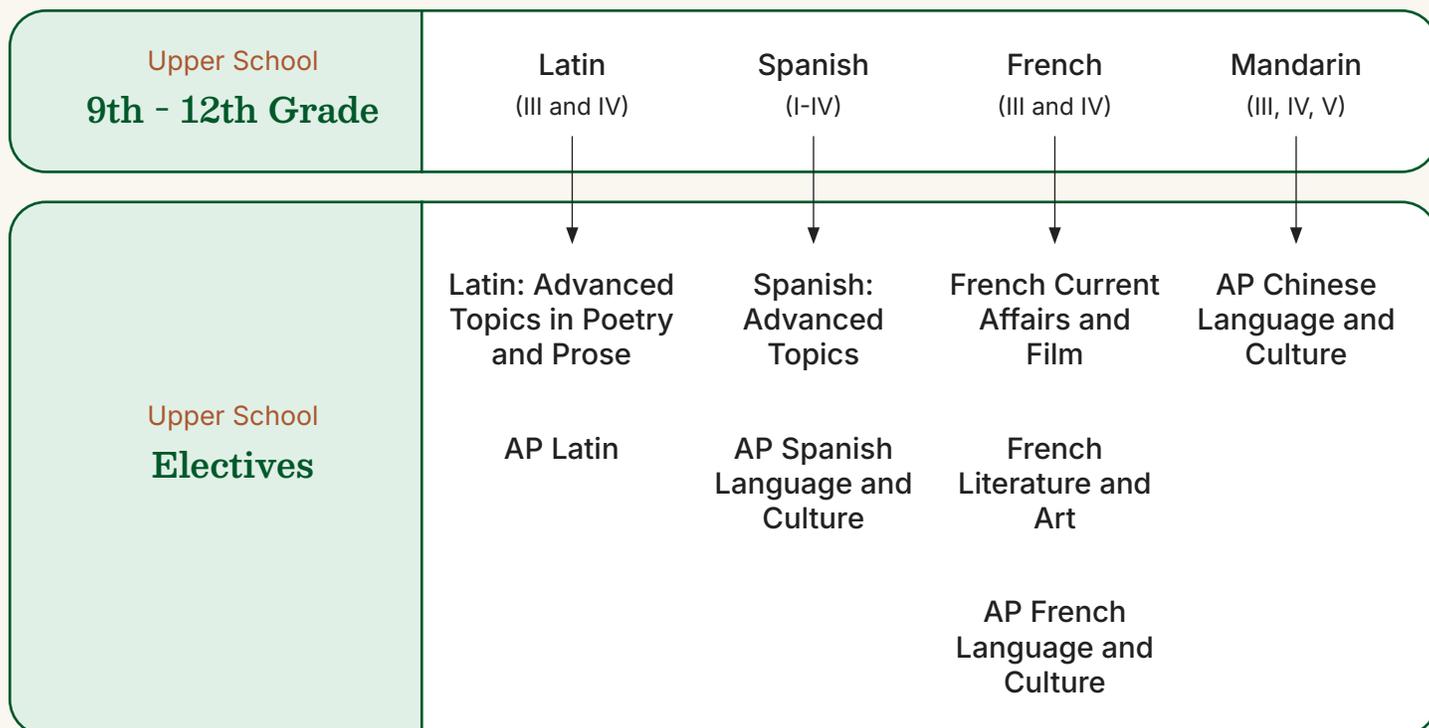
Elective

One semester elective.

By understanding the historical development of the Cold War from multiple geopolitical perspectives, students will examine the legacy of the Cold War period as it relates to current international relations. The course digs into the origins of the Cold War, providing an overview of the different economic and political systems that characterized the tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union. Examination as to how the Cold War affected Europe, East Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America from multiple perspectives will provide context for topics like the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Korean and Vietnam Wars, the Soviet-

World Languages

The Overlake World Languages program is designed to broaden students' understanding and appreciation for the diversity of world cultures by building linguistic and cultural competence through the study of language.



Spanish I

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

This course is designed for Upper School students who have little or no prior background in the language, introducing students to the Spanish language and to the culture of the Spanish-speaking world. Emphasis is placed on comprehension and speaking using a variety of strategies providing comprehensible input through stories and fun activities. Reading and writing are used to reinforce oral practice. Students develop a core vocabulary and knowledge of basic grammar necessary for communication. Students learn to speak of themselves, their families, friends and activities, and are introduced to the culture through films, cultural videos, music, scenarios and class discussions. Students prepare and present projects about some aspect of their lives.

French I

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Only runs when there are sufficient numbers.

This course is designed for Upper School students who have little or no prior background in the language. It introduces students to the French language within the context of the contemporary French-speaking world and its cultures. While the course is aimed at bringing students to a novice level of proficiency in the four areas of language

acquisition—listening, speaking, reading and writing, its main emphasis is on comprehension and speaking. Reading and writing are used to reinforce oral practice. Students develop a core vocabulary and knowledge of the basic skills necessary for communication. Students learn to speak about themselves, their families, friends and activities, and are introduced to culture through films, cultural videos, music and other authentic materials. Students prepare and present projects about some aspect of their lives.

Mandarin Chinese I

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Only runs when there are sufficient numbers.

Mandarin Chinese I is for students who have little or no prior background in the language. Students are introduced to standard Chinese language (Mandarin) and culture. Emphasis is placed on pinyin (the phonetic system indicating Chinese pronunciation in the English alphabet), listening comprehension, speaking skills and character writing. Simplified Chinese characters are taught during the course, while traditional forms of characters are also introduced to show the formation and change of Chinese characters. Students develop a core vocabulary and knowledge of basic grammar for conversation. Conversation topics relate to daily life and school life; such as, greetings, directions, personal hobbies, and courtesy expressions. Cultural knowledge is gained through videos, movies, online research, and supplementary readings.

Q&A

Question: Can I take Mandarin I if I've never studied Mandarin before?

Answer: Yes, the program is perfect for beginners or students who are new to the language.

Question: Can I take Mandarin I if I hear Mandarin at home and understand daily conversations, but cannot read or write in Chinese?

Answer: Yes, Mandarin I is an ideal choice if you want to improve your reading and writing skills in addition to your listening and speaking abilities.

Question: What will I learn in the first year of Mandarin?

Answer: In your first year, you'll learn:

- A system that uses the Roman alphabet (pinyin) to represent Chinese sounds.
- Proper pronunciation, with an emphasis on mastering the tonal differences in Mandarin.
- Around 250 basic to simple Chinese characters.
- How to express yourself on a variety of topics, such as introducing yourself and your family, discussing hobbies, talking about dates and time, visiting friends, and sharing daily school life experiences.
- Key Chinese holidays and traditions, with hands-on experiences celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year.

Spanish II

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Spanish II begins with a review of Spanish I (or the MS A and B series) and continues building proficiency in the language. Speaking skills remain a major focus, but additional emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and listening comprehension. The primary text is supplemented by selected short stories, poems, songs, conversational scenarios and films, helping students to develop a deeper understanding of the culture of various Spanish-speaking countries. Students prepare and present projects on some aspects of the culture of the Spanish-speaking world.

French II

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Only runs when there are sufficient numbers.

French II students continue to build more proficiency in the language developed in French I (or the MS French A and B series). The development of speaking skills receives major focus, but additional emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and listening comprehension. The primary text is supplemented by selected short stories, poems, cartoons, music, and films, and online sources to help students develop a deeper understanding of the cultures behind the French language. Students prepare and present projects on some aspects of the cultures of the French-speaking world.

Mandarin Chinese II

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

Only runs when there are sufficient numbers.

Mandarin Chinese II starts with a short review of Mandarin Chinese I (or the MS Mandarin Chinese A and B series) and continues to expand students' communicative abilities. Speaking and listening remain as the focus, while reading comprehension and writing are also emphasized. Accurate pronunciation and intonation is stressed. Conversation topics relate to situations that could occur while studying abroad; such as shopping, renting houses, banking, and travelling. Students are also expected to become more proficient in both handwritten and word-processed Chinese writing by using the pinyin input method. Students improve their writing through letter replies in simulated and real situations. Further cultural knowledge is gained through supplementary readings, movies, research projects and cultural activities.

Latin III

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

This course continues from the study of Latin II (or MS Latin C), emphasizing reading and translation skills. The class begins by completing the advanced grammar concepts needed for reading authentic Latin texts. Initial readings focus on helping students make the transition to reading authentic Latin texts by introducing them to Latin prose and poetry in a graded format. Creative projects accompany the authors to give students a chance to enhance their experience of the reading. Throughout the course, grammar is reviewed through special activities that supplement the reading. Students also explore the daily life and history of Rome through original, literary sources. Etymology work is constantly emphasized as the students continue to strengthen their English vocabulary. Latin III students participate in the National Latin Exam.

Spanish III

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Spanish III equips students with the proficiency to engage in meaningful conversations and comprehend complex information in Spanish while deepening their understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures. Designed for those who have completed three years of middle school Spanish or Spanish II in Upper School, this course strengthens interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills through exploration of authentic texts, lively discussions, formal and informal presentations, and varied writing tasks, all while refining students' grammatical accuracy and depth of vocabulary use.

Students will explore thematic units such as personal relationships, daily routines and responsibilities, entertainment and pastimes, health and well-being, and travel and global citizenship while growing their ability to express themselves and comprehend more sophisticated language structures. Discussions about social customs,

traditions, and current events in Spanish-speaking countries allow rich opportunities for cultural exploration, as well as a chance to reflect on students' own cultural identities and values as members of our global community.

By the end of the course, students will be able to confidently express their personal opinions and engage in more complex conversations in Spanish. They will be able to narrate past, present, and future events, comprehend diverse texts, and write with greater accuracy and clarity, all preparing them for advanced Spanish study and real-world communication.

French III

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

French III equips students with the proficiency to engage in meaningful conversations and comprehend complex information in French while deepening their understanding of French-speaking cultures. Designed for those who have completed three years of middle school French or one year of French II, this course strengthens interpretive, interpersonal, and presentational skills through exploration of authentic texts, lively discussions, formal and informal presentations, and varied writing tasks, all while refining students' grammatical accuracy and depth of vocabulary use.

Students will explore thematic units such as personal relationships, daily life in a city, the world of media and its influence on society, justice and politics while growing their ability to express themselves and comprehend more sophisticated language structures. Discussions about social customs, traditions, and current events in French-speaking countries allow rich opportunities for cultural exploration, as well as a chance to reflect on students' own cultural identities and values as members of our global community.

By the end of the course, students will be able to confidently express their personal opinions and engage in more complex conversations in French. They will be able to narrate past, present, and future events, comprehend diverse texts, and write with greater accuracy and clarity, all preparing them for advanced French study and real-world communication.

Mandarin Chinese III

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Mandarin Chinese III begins with a short review of Mandarin Chinese II (or MS Mandarin Chinese C) and continues to build up the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Speaking and listening skills continue to be the major focus, while additional emphasis is placed on reading comprehension and writing short essays. Conversation topics relate to cultural comparisons and personal opinions. Students learn to talk about their school life with ease. Students also have chances to practice speaking with other native speakers. They improve their writing skills through replying to emails and writing summaries of their reading in Chinese. Further cultural knowledge is gained through supplementary reading in Chinese, contemporary Chinese movies, pop songs, and short stories.

Latin IV

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

This advanced course of Latin emphasizes reading and translating skills. Students explore the daily life and history of Rome through original, literary sources. They will have an opportunity to read various ancient texts in order to investigate the Romans' views on topics such as Love, Customs, Movement of People, and Nature. In the past, such texts have included selections from Catullus, Horace, Martial, Vergil, Caesar, Sulpicia, Pliny, and Ovid. Creative projects complement and enhance students' reading of the authors, and grammar analysis, vocabulary, composition, etymology, and translation are core elements of the class. Students in Latin IV participate in the National Latin Exam. After Latin IV, students have a choice of going on to AP Latin or Advanced Topics.

Spanish IV

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

This course is designed to help students improve their oral communication skills through the practice of guided conversation and oral reports, as well as to enhance their written communication through developing formal and informal writing. Students focus on improving listening and reading comprehension through exposure to authentic sources, such as magazine and newspaper articles, the Internet, current music and film. Reading selections include short stories, poetry and excerpts from prominent Spanish speaking authors. Grammar is reinforced in the context of these authentic readings. Special effort is made to enhance vocabulary knowledge through exposure to thematic units containing more sophisticated vocabulary. Students also reach a deeper understanding of the culture and current history of the Spanish-speaking world through more in-depth study of literature and film. Students work on two larger projects relating to their lives and several aspects of the Hispanic culture. Spanish IV serves as additional skill-building for those students interested in continuing the study of Spanish at the AP level in the future. Students have their choice of enrolling at the AP level, either AP Spanish Language or AP Spanish Literature, (with instructor permission) after successfully completing this course.

French IV

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

This course is designed to help students improve their oral communication skills through prompted and guided conversations, debates, and interviews. Written communication skills are enhanced through intensive reading and the practice of compositions and reports. Students continue to be exposed to authentic sources, such as magazine articles, the Internet, films, and literary works, and prepare oral and written reports on some related topics to reach a deeper understanding of the culture of the Francophone world. Through the news, students are introduced to global issues that they further explore in class through discussions, presentations and through written reports. Students read the work of Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables*, leading to philosophical discussions and profound analysis.

Mandarin Chinese IV

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Mandarin Chinese IV begins with a short review of Mandarin Chinese III and continues to build up the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening. Students continue to strengthen their speaking and listening skills, while simultaneously focusing on improving reading comprehension and writing skills. Conversation topics are similar to Mandarin Chinese III, but with expanded vocabulary use. Students learn to express their personal opinions on everyday topics with ease, with themes such as friends, school, sports, movies, and music. Students learn about culture through extensive reading in Chinese. They improve their writing skills through short essays, replying to emails from their pen pal in China and by writing short stories in Chinese from provided picture prompts. Students develop a further appreciation for the language and culture by reading in Chinese from authentic sources, such as magazine and newspaper articles, the Internet, contemporary Chinese movies and by learning current pop songs. Mandarin IV serves as additional skill-building for students interested in continuing to the AP level.

Mandarin Chinese V

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Mandarin Chinese V will begin with a review of Mandarin Chinese IV, and then will continue developing students' communication skills through more complex grammatical concepts and extended vocabulary. Oral and listening skills will remain the main focus of learning, but additional emphasis will be placed on understanding culture, reading comprehension, and essay writing. Further cultural knowledge will be gained through class activities, discussions, websites, films, videos, songs, poems, short stories, and a variety of other authentic sources.

Latin Advanced Topics

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

In this course, students expand their experience of the language by exploring different genres and areas of study in Latin. Advanced level Latin students pursue further development and refinement of rhetorical devices, meter, morphology, vocabulary, and syntax through the reading of the original texts of significant Latin prose authors or poets, based on student interest. Past authors have included Apuleius, Cicero, Tibullus, Sallust, Vergil and Catullus. Students will gain a deeper understanding of Roman history, culture, and literature through our exploration of these texts. Moreover, the basic principles of studying ancient art, archaeology, music, epigraphy, and paleography are introduced through our reading of the texts and through periodic presentations and projects.

Latin AP

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

AP

Elective

This course follows the newly revised College Board Advanced Placement Latin curriculum designed to prepare

students for the examination in May. This year students will read selections from Vergil's Aeneid and Pliny's Letters in Latin, as well as extensive readings from both authors in translation. Students will also read a selection of Latin prose and poetry authors; these authors may change from year to year based on students' interest. This curriculum requires competency in both fluent reading and analysis of prose and poetry. Students will review grammar through the readings, and vocabulary is tested regularly to improve translation speed. The course includes a Spring Project, literary analysis through essay writing, as well as translation skills. This course requires total commitment on the part of each student and will demand extra preparation and participation.

Spanish Advanced Topics - Cinema and Literature

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

Elective

Prerequisite: Students can take this course after finishing Spanish IV.

This course is designed to help students expand their Spanish language proficiency and enrich their cultural understanding through an integration of films addressing relevant cultural and historical events and authentic literature in the target language. There will be continued emphasis on improving communication skills through practicing conversation, listening comprehension, and more sophisticated writing. Using film and literature as a guide, students will engage in a journey of exploration to better understand past and present Spanish-speaking communities and cultures. Students will discuss their ideas and opinions in class and make cross-cultural comparisons to further develop their critical thinking skills orally and in writing in Spanish.

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Prerequisite: The recommendation of the student's current Spanish IV teacher and the upcoming AP teacher is required for entry to AP Spanish Language and Culture.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture Examination. The course focuses on improving listening and reading comprehension, and oral and written communication skills. Students work on achieving the fluency necessary for sustained oral discourse, creating coherent written expression, synthesizing a variety of abstract and concrete input and to reaching a deeper understanding of the cultures of Spanish-speaking countries. Emphasis is placed on enhancing vocabulary, improving conversation and impromptu speaking capabilities, writing essays, listening to recordings of native speakers, reading authentic texts, reviewing advanced grammar and perfecting pronunciation. The class material is varied and includes news broadcasts and articles, original literature, films and songs in Spanish. Students prepare oral reports comparing aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures with similar topics in their own cultures. This course requires

commitment on the part of the student and will demand extra participation and preparation.

*Additional criteria considered by teachers for permission to enroll are the following:

- Interpersonal Communication - 90% or better in conversations and written interpersonal communication
- Presentational Communication - 90% or better in oral presentations and written compositions
- Participation and homework - 90% or better in participation and homework assignments
- Demonstration of engagement and thoughtful participation
- Demonstration to commit to the demands of an AP curriculum by taking responsibility for one's own learning

French Current Affairs and Film

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This course is designed to help students build their language proficiency at an advanced level through a variety of cultural studies. There is continued emphasis on improving communication skills through practicing conversation, listening comprehension and more sophisticated writing. Through articles, TV news, and films, students engage with relevant topics such as the death penalty, euthanasia, war, politics, economics, and lifestyle. They discuss their ideas and opinions in class and make cross-cultural comparisons between the laws in France and in the United-States. Students also learn about the educational system in France and Europe. These authentic sources provide the opportunity for cultural reflection through the use of the French language.

French Literature and Art

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Elective

Not offered this year

This course is designed for students who have completed French through Current Affairs and Film and/or AP French Language and Culture. It allows all interested students to complete a fourth year of studies in advanced French. The course is organized around major works by French philosophers, novelists, playwrights, poets and/or cartoonists as well as around major art work by French painters, sculptors, photographers, designers, musicians and/or movie directors. The students focus on refining listening and reading comprehension, along with oral and written communication skills. The students reinforce their fluency in oral discourse, strengthen their ability to communicate through persuasive written expression, improve impromptu speaking capabilities, and attain a richer understanding of the culture of Francophone countries. The class material is varied and students prepare reports, write essays and poems, engage in oral conversation, and make presentations and short films.

AP French Language and Culture

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Prerequisite: The recommendation of the student's current French IV teacher and the upcoming AP teacher is required for entry to AP French Language and culture.

This course is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement French Language and Culture Examination. The course focuses on improving listening and reading comprehension, and oral and written communication skills. Students work on achieving the fluency necessary for sustained oral discourse, creating coherent written expression, synthesizing a variety of abstract and concrete input and to reaching a deeper understanding of the culture of Francophone countries. Emphasis is placed on enhancing vocabulary, improving conversation and impromptu speaking capabilities, writing essays, listening to recordings of native speakers, reading authentic texts, reviewing advanced grammar and perfecting pronunciation. The class material is varied and includes news broadcasts and articles, original literature, films and songs in French. Students prepare oral reports regarding aspects of the culture of the Francophone world. This course requires commitment on the part of the student and will demand extra participation and preparation.

*Additional criteria considered by teachers for permission to enroll are the following:

- Interpretive Communication - 90% or better in reading and listening comprehension
- Interpersonal Communication - 90% or better in conversations and written interpersonal communication
- Presentational Communication - 90% or better in oral presentations and written compositions
- Demonstration of engagement and thoughtful participation
- Demonstration to commit to the demands of an AP curriculum by taking responsibility for one's own learning

AP Chinese Language and Culture

Grades Offered: 9, 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite Needed

AP

Elective

Prerequisite: 90% or better in Mandarin IV and instructor's permission.

AP Chinese Language & Culture is a full-year course that covers the equivalent of a second-year (or the fourth semester) of a college level course. This is an advanced Mandarin Chinese class aimed at equipping students both linguistically and culturally to communicate successfully using Chinese in the school setting and beyond. This course prepares students to demonstrate their level of Chinese proficiency across the three communicative modes: Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational, and the five goal areas: Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities, as outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. This course also requires significant dedication, demanding extra student preparation and participation in class.



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