

# Xavier Course Descriptions (2025-2026)

## ART

### **7th-8th Intro to Design**

7th-12th (semester course)

Design is an intuitive and tangible process for bringing together an idea with a laconic way of delivering that idea through layout of spaces and visual movement. Students learn the basics of layout, typography, guidelines of design, spatial arrangements and the movement within, decision making, working with a client to solve problems with concepts and communication via many media in the arts in both 2D and 3D methods. The history of design is part of the program and then becomes more involved as the student gains an understanding of what it is they want to communicate. Students learn a manual way of layout and delivery. They practice simple tasks like gluing and cutting and painting. A large topic of discussion is the difference between art and design. This course provides an awareness of the ways in which design functions in our day to day world.

### **Intro to Visual Arts**

7th-8th (semester course)

Students cultivate a deep understanding of the essential terms, concepts, techniques, and practices of art that form the foundation of Western Civilization. Through this lens, they engage in creating projects that reflect these foundational skills and ideas. Students dedicate significant time to developing proficiency in drawing and painting, equipping themselves with the necessary skills to succeed in advanced arts classes. The curriculum emphasizes the importance of craftsmanship, encouraging students to refine their technical abilities while allowing for creative exploration and problem-solving. Project assessments focus on these key factors: craftsmanship, creativity, and the commitment to time and effort invested in the creative process.

### **Photography, Design, and Paper**

7th-12th (semester course)

In the photography section of this course students try their hand at a few different ways of image making via the camera. Students develop a glossary of vocabulary terms, learn the functions/parts of a camera, and develop an online gallery of their work. In the design section of this course, students study design schools and artists that have influenced the way design functions today, and receive hands-on design activities in architecture, graphic design, and interior design. In the paper section of this course, students have hands-on experiences that allow them to build dexterity with glue, cutting, and paint. Students must have an Edmodo.com, a Pinterest account, and their own camera. Parents are encouraged to set up a safe plan for uploading images they photograph to share with the class and be viewed online. If this is a deterrent for you, photography may not be the best class to participate in. Students are also encouraged to bring their own tools such as a simple paintbrush set, a small self-healing cutting board and a pen knife. Lockers are provided for tool storage.

## **Principles & Elements of Art**

7th-8th (semester course)

Students explore their individual artistic ambitions with teacher guidance, cultivating their skills in various methods and mediums. A foundational aspect of the curriculum includes a thorough understanding of the principles and elements of art, such as balance, contrast, emphasis, movement, pattern, rhythm, unity, form, color, line, shape, texture, and space. These core concepts are essential as students develop their artistic voice and make informed decisions in their creative processes. An integral component of the curriculum also encompasses research and exploration of notable artists, significant art movements, and influential works of art. By integrating theory with hands-on practice, students are inspired to pursue excellence and personal growth through the transformative power of art.

## **Printmaking**

7th-12th (semester course)

Printmaking is a historical discipline of duplicating an image, multiple times, from a variety of different plate making methods. In this avenue of study students will experience methods of making image carrying plates that can be inked and printed onto paper, or fabric.

Semester may be repeated and a more focused approach can be made by the student. The course is an in-depth exploratory and classically based series of exercises and is meant to introduce historical printmaking techniques that have led to the written word and imaginative image being placed in everyman's hand.

## **Studio Art**

9th-12th (semester course)

Students receive instruction that differs every semester. The media and techniques also differ. We study classic art from the past, and how it applies to the present. Drawing, Painting, Sculpture are the plastic arts we study. Within those disciplines, there are specialized techniques that students learn. This ties them to the past and applies to the present. Weekly assignments are offered for credit in Google classroom for students to pursue content. The art studio classroom is for making and refining skills.

# **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

## **Intro to Technology**

7th (semester course)

This course focuses on digital literacy, including typing, document creation and manipulation, email, and digital citizenship.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **Speech**

9th-12th (semester course)

Students develop the public speaking skills to speak well and clearly, enabling them to express their opinions and ideas in an eloquent and convincing manner. Students also explore communication theory and interpersonal skills in this course.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **Creative Writing**

7th-12th (semester course)

Creative writing is an elective course that focuses on the main elements of both short stories and novels. A variety of genres and formats are studied and composed. Students contribute to a work for publication. Topics vary by semester.

### **Digital Productions A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Students create the yearbook for Xavier Charter School. Students learn all aspects of design and composition, and create a unified theme for the overall book. Taking photos, editing photos, creating backgrounds, as well as working with different styles of text help the students learn the various forms of composition. Students' writing and spelling skills are assessed as this published book must be accurate and error free. Students are expected to keep deadlines and meet all publisher proof dates.

### **English Lab**

7th-12th (semester course)

English lab is an extra help class designed for all students who are needing extra time or help in their English classes. This class also helps students manage their work-load by providing time to complete the required homework assignments.

### **Teacher Aid**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

This course is designed to provide support for Xavier Charter School teaching staff. Students assist a designated teacher in planning and preparation for daily activities. They learn effective communication strategies, leadership skills, and professionalism. Through this hands-on experience, students gain valuable insight into the teaching profession and develop the skills necessary for supporting the educational and personal growth of their peers.

## **HUMANITIES**

### **Humanities: Art Analysis**

7th-12th (semester course)

This course focuses on examining the impact of classical art and architecture on the Western tradition of thought by examining the elements of the piece in conjunction with its context of creation and display. This examination combines the study of art with history, literature, and argument into a course that truly reflects the study of the Humanities. Students analyze classical pieces and learn, not only to appreciate the beauty of the piece, but how the artist's background, the historical context surrounding its creation, the medium, the formal elements of art in the piece itself, and its display collectively and fundamentally shaped its impact on the Legacy of Western Civilization, developing each student's analytical skills through writing formal analyses of the pieces. Students also develop their observational skills, rhetorical argument skills, research, and formal writing through examining the impact of the art that shaped our legacy.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS**

### **7th Grade Language Arts A/B**

7th (yearlong course)

The literature studied in this course focuses on laying the foundations for studying the heroic cycle. Students are expected to write in a number of formats, and to draw conclusions and critically examine the people, events and intellectual trends connected to the literature. Their primary focus is on essay organization, types of writing, and developing quality thesis statements, as well as literary analysis through persuasive, cause and effect, and research writing. Latin and Greek roots and affixes, as well as grammar and mechanics, are studied within the context of reading and writing to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers.

### **8th Grade Language Arts A/B**

8th (yearlong course)

The literature studied in this course continues the study of the heroic cycle, exploring the conflicts and issues that arise within a society. Students are expected to write in a number of formats, and to draw conclusions and critically examine the people, events and intellectual trends connected to the literature. Their primary focus is on essay organization, types of writing, and developing quality thesis statements, as well as literary analysis through persuasive, cause and effect, and research writing. Latin and Greek roots and affixes, as well as grammar and mechanics, are studied within the context of student reading and writing to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers.

### **Ancient Literature A/B**

9th (yearlong course)

The literature studied focuses on the foundational stories from the dawn of Western Civilization that have shaped archetypal characters and conflicts throughout human history. Students are expected to write in a number of formats, and to draw conclusions and critically examine the people, events and intellectual trends connected to the literature. Greek roots and affixes, grammar, mechanics, and vocabulary are studied within the context of student reading and writing.

### **Ancient Transitional to Medieval Literature A/B**

10th (yearlong course)

Sophomores study major texts from the ancient to medieval period that reflect the formation of the civilizations of modern Europe, especially Great Britain. Students are expected to write in a number of formats drawing conclusions and critically examining the people, events and intellectual trends connected to the literature. Latin and Greek roots and affixes, as well as grammar and mechanics, are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers. The curriculum is rigorous and provides the intellectual challenges and workload consistent with sophomore high school literature and composition.

### **Junior Composition and Humanities A/B**

11th (yearlong course)

Juniors study major texts from the renaissance to victorian era that reflect the development of the heroic journey from the lens of the "Everyman." Students are expected to write in a number of formats drawing conclusions and critically examining the people, events and intellectual trends connected to the literature. A two semester study of the Everyman Hero's Journey in Humanities through the interdisciplinary study of literature, film, art, anthropology, music and composition. This is a fast moving and challenging course designed to use classical methods of primary source study, and socratic discussion in combination with advanced composition. Dual credit for CSI course ENGL 101 or HUMA 101 may be available for this course.

### **12th Grade English Composition A/B**

12th (yearlong course)

This is a fast moving and challenging course designed to prepare students for entry into University, and students must be prepared to keep up with a heavy reading and writing load throughout the entire year. The course has a heavy focus on writing and reading, and will incorporate speaking and listening skills through Socratic discussion. Students are expected to write in a number of formats, draw conclusions and critically examine the people, events and intellectual trends connected to literature and society. Grammar and mechanics are studied formally to provide students with a common vocabulary with which to discuss their writing with teachers and peers. Vocabulary study and quizzes are also incorporated to best prepare students to engage in the advanced level of reading material. Dual credit for CSI course ENGL 102/175 may be available for this course.

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **Algebra 1 A/B**

7th-12th (yearlong course)

Algebra provides all the basic building blocks needed for future math, science, computer, economics, or business courses. This course is designed to prepare students for future math classes, and improve their thinking and problem-solving skills. This course delves into the following topics: solving first-degree equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations and inequalities, writing linear equations in different formats, systems of linear equations and inequalities, radicals, polynomials, factoring, and exponents. (Prerequisite: 7th/8th graders must meet pretest and grade requirements)

### **Algebra 2 A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Algebra 2 provides a review and extension of the concepts taught in Algebra 1. Throughout this course, students develop learning strategies, critical thinking skills, and problem solving techniques to prepare for future math courses and college entrance exams. Topics include systems of equations and inequalities, quadratic equations, imaginary numbers, polynomial and rational functions, and radicals.

### **Calculus A/B**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

(AP) This is the first course in the college Calculus sequence. This class discusses real-valued functions of one real variable, limits, continuity, derivatives, integrals, and applications, integration, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

### **Financial Math**

11th-12th (second semester course)

This course explores real-world finance for personal use. Topics include budgeting, planning, balancing accounts, loans, simple and compound interest, taxes, investing, credit, etc.

### **Geometry A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Based on Euclidean Geometry this class is the application of algebraic concepts in terms of geometric figures. This course includes extensive study of the triangle, parallel lines, formal proofs, the Pythagorean Theorem, applications of mathematical formulas, quadrilaterals and other polygons, circles, two- and three-dimensional relationships, introduction to trigonometry, proportions, area, volume, and applications of mathematical formulas. Geometry focuses on problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and making connections to other subject areas as well as the world we live in.

**7th/8th Grade Math A/B**

7th-8th (yearlong course)

This course expands mathematics knowledge from elementary grades. This course focuses on operations on fractions, decimals, and integers, as well as modeling. Students review important math concepts such as order of operations, and are introduced to exponents, variables, and roots. Students also learn to analyze and display data.

**Math Lab**

7th-12th (semester course)

This course is designed to support students in their primary math class. It is not a homework time, though some time may be given to work on homework, but rather it is an opportunity for students to receive a preview of upcoming concepts, review the previous day's math content, and review concepts that support their understanding of mathematics in general. (Prerequisite: teacher or counselor recommendation)

**Pre-Algebra A/B**

7th-12th (yearlong course)

This course is an introduction to the real number system and variables in preparation for high school mathematics. This course focuses on basic algebra, working with ratios and integers, and modeling. It encourages students to make sense of these problems and persevere in their solution. (Prerequisite: 7th graders must meet pretest and grade requirements)

**Pre-Calculus A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Pre-Calculus focuses on the algebraic, trigonometric, and geometric techniques needed to prepare students for the study of calculus, and strengthens students' conceptual understanding of problems and mathematical reasoning. Topics include equations and inequalities, polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations and inequalities, trigonometric functions, analytical trigonometry and identities, and solving trigonometric equations. .

**Project Statistics**

11th-12th (first semester course)

Statistics is the science of drawing conclusions from data. This class delves into real-world problems, how statistics offers solutions, and how to avoid fallacious conclusions. Topics include describing patterns and departures from patterns, planning and conducting surveys and studies, anticipating patterns, estimating population parameters, and testing hypotheses.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

### **Acting**

7th-12th (semester course)

This class employs a range of memorization, vocal, physical, and acting techniques for both stage and film, and touches on direction and stage management from an actor's perspective.. The class performs in a production at the end of the semester.

### **Advanced Band A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Advanced Band is a continuation course for students with two or more years of previous band experience. Students develop more musical skills through performance. They have the opportunity to participate in large group, small group, and solo ensembles. (Prerequisite: Music reading and performance ability on percussion, woodwind or brass instruments)

### **Armonia Choir**

7th-8th (semester course)

Armonia students learn to match pitch, and blend and balance within a choir. Students learn proper vocal production and technique, the basics of music literacy and performance, and music reading skills. This course provides opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based course. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required

### **Beginning Band A/B**

7th-8th (yearlong course)

Beginning Band is designed to provide students with an introductory experience on band instruments. Curriculum for this course is an extension of skills and concepts introduced in general music classes. Prior instrumental experience is not required.

### **Concert Choir**

9th-12th (semester course)

This course explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique, sight-reading, music theory, and music history. Students are expected to participate in two evening concerts every semester.

### **7-8 Drama**

7th-8th (semester course)

Students delve into a comprehensive study of theatrical elements, exploring foundational topics in acting, technical theater, and the history of theater. This exploration cultivates an appreciation for the arts while enhancing critical thinking and communication skills. Students explore theater through writing, in-class performances and evaluations, and artistic projects.



### **Eclatante Choir A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

This course is the top audition choir and is performance-based. This course is the top audition choir and is very performance heavy. There is lots of team building, sight reading, vocal technique, and leadership skills involved. There are many opportunities for performance that will heighten musical growth. All genres of music throughout all music periods will be performed. Students are expected to participate in two evening concerts every semester. (Prerequisite: Concert Choir)

### **Event Productions**

7th-12th (semester course)

Learn all things backstage! This class offers an introduction to not just theater production, but also event management and production. This class is responsible for the sound, set, costume, etc for theater productions. This class also touches on stage management from a design perspective and this class is recommended for students with interests in technical theater.

### **Intermediate Band A/B**

8th (yearlong course)

Intermediate Band is a musical experience that provides students with second year training on woodwind, brass and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development and expansion of musical skills that lead to rewarding performance experiences. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through new opportunities such as honor bands. Prior instrument experience is required.

### **General Dance**

7th-8th (semester course)

Students explore the fundamental techniques of various dance genres while fostering an appreciation for the art form. Students engage in a dynamic curriculum that emphasizes posture, balance, and rhythm, promoting both physical fitness and body awareness. Students learn to use dance as a means of self-expression and artistic exploration.

### **Musical Dance Theater**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Advanced Dance Performers delve into the artistry and technicality of storytelling through movement.. Students hone their skills in character development and performance dynamics. The emphasis is on precision in technique, creativity in choreography, and the ability to convey emotional depth, cultivating a comprehensive understanding of musical theater.

### **Modern Music Productions**

9th-12th (semester course)

In this course, students learn how to create their own music, using various programs. These programs or apps are used to create drum tracks, loops, instrument sounds, and other tracks to create songs. The styles are not restricted to classical, jazz, pop, rock, etc. The purpose is to explore styles and create music that appeals to the students as individuals and is completely original.

### **Secondary Dance Genres**

9th-12th (semester course)

Dancers of varying skill levels build on their foundational techniques while exploring a rich tapestry of styles, including jazz, contemporary, hip-hop, and more. Students are encouraged to expound on self-exploration and creativity, fostering a lifelong appreciation for the art form.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND WELLNESS**

### **Health**

9th-12th (semester course)

In this class students learn the core concepts of health and wellness and learn to shape their own health through an understanding of behaviors, goal-setting and planning. Idaho content standards of health education are incorporated to address body systems and healthy body weight, disease prevention, and maintaining healthy behaviors. Students are exposed to critical thinking skills and decision-making regarding healthy living. Emphasis on nutrition and physical activity are reinforced as well as stress management techniques and building healthy relationships. The class materials encourage the healthiest choices regarding injury prevention and avoidance of destructive habits. Safety and first aid, overcoming barriers for a better environment and community health and advocacy help prepare students for a lifetime of wellness.

### **Lifetime Sports (7th-8th)/Fitness Activities (9th-12th)**

7th-12th (semester course)

Secondary School PE is designed to introduce students to a variety of movement opportunities and to develop an understanding of the importance of a healthy lifestyle. Activities encompass many basic skills with various equipment and are designed to incorporate learning about health concepts and components of physical fitness. Limited sports will be taught. Students are required to dress down for PE and should have athletic shoes and appropriate clothing for movement. In moderate weather they should have clothes that are layered for indoor or outdoor participation.

## **SCIENCE**

### **Anatomy/Physiology A/B**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

Anatomy and Physiology includes foundational concepts related to the structure and function of the human body. The curriculum provides a basis for students to develop a strong conceptual understanding of the following human body systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, cardiovascular, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive. The course provides laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, observation of tissue specimens via microscope, and dissection labs. This course is designed for college preparation, especially for biology and health career majors.

### **Astronomy A/B**

9th-12th (semester course)

Astronomy deals with the study of the universe beyond the Earth. This course includes studying the techniques used by astronomers, the history of astronomy from antiquity to the present, the solar system, stars, galaxies, and the cosmos. Option trips outside of school hours, including to the Harrett Center or to stargaze on a telescope may be incorporated. This course is intended for students who may not be prepared for the more rigorous subjects of chemistry, physics, anatomy, and physiology.

### **Biology A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

Biology is the study of life. The course provides an introduction to the principles and processes that apply to living systems including a broad range of current biological issues. It explores the topics of organic molecules, cells and cell processes, genetics and heredity, evolution, classification, ecology, diversity, and human biologic systems. Students will complete inquiry-based laboratory experiments including the use of microscopes and specimen dissections.

### **Chemistry A/B**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

This course delves into the scientific method, atomic structure, chemical bonding, and the periodic table. Students gain an understanding of chemical reactions and the behavior of gasses, liquids, and solids. Students are expected to refine their ability for conducting laboratory exercises and experiments, and further developing their project management skills.

### **Life Science A/B**

7th-8th (yearlong course)

Students are introduced to the vocabulary, conceptual framework, tools/technology, and measurement system of science. This course is specific to the life sciences, with a focus on the concepts, theories, and classification systems that pertain to living things. Topics include the nature of science, the characteristics of life, the metric system, experimental design, cells, genetics/heredity, human body systems, classification, and ecology.

### **Physical Science A/B**

7th-8th (yearlong course)

This course delves into an understanding of the scientific method, basic atomic structure, chemical bonding, mechanics, energy, and basic machines. Students acquire the ability to conduct laboratory exercises and experiments and begin developing project management skills. There is an emphasis on critical thinking, and the ability to clearly communicate scientific ideas and thoughts.

### **Physics A/B**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

This course is designed to provide an overview of the basic topics of physics, including mechanics, heat, thermodynamics, sound, electromagnetic fields, and basic electrical circuitry. A combination of laboratory experimentation and mathematical problem solving is used to predict and explore the actual behavior of various real world circumstances and events. Emphasis is placed upon problem solving. (Prerequisite: precalculus)

### **Zoology**

9th-12th (semester course)

Zoology is the study of animals - their structure and function, classification, ecology, evolution, and behavior. This course places particular emphasis on the diversity of animal groups, their history throughout geologic time, their roles in biological communities, the conservation of animal biodiversity, and animal behavior.

## **SECOND LANGUAGE STUDY**

### **French 1 A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

The study of a foreign language encourages understanding of a student's native language and broadens their understanding of culture and diversity. The purpose of French 1 is for students to master the basic sounds, vocabulary, and grammatical structures to communicate in French. Socratic methods of discussion are used to converse about French reading assignments. Students learn about various French cultures around the world as an essential component of learning a second language.

### **French 2 A/B**

10th-12th (yearlong course)

French 2 continues to expand the student's understanding of French as well as their native Language. Students continue to learn new vocabulary for things that occur regularly in their lives. They expand the usage of French from memorized and simple sentences to more original and complex sentences including the basics of paragraph writing. Students continue to master the language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. There is an increased emphasis on Socratic discussion of more complex French readings. Additionally, students will learn about various French cultures around the world as an essential component of learning a second language.

### **Intro to French**

8th (quarter long course)

The study of a foreign language encourages an understanding of a student's native language and broadens their understanding of culture and diversity. In this introductory course, students study the parts and functions of basic French grammar, including the three essential verbs *to have*, *to be*, and *to go*. Students learn basic linguistic courtesies and greetings, and begin building a speaking vocabulary. Students evaluate their mastery of the above topics using writing and speaking skills.

### **Intro to Spanish**

8th (quarter long course)

This class introduces students to Spanish grammatical structure and how it compares to English. We explore Hispanic history and its influence and expansion throughout the world. Students build a vocabulary that is usable for communicating in a few basic social situations and memorize several dialogues using their vocabulary. Students work on correct spelling, pronunciation and listening for comprehension.

### **Spanish 1 A/B**

9th-12th (yearlong course)

This class focuses on Spanish grammatical structure. Students will begin building a working vocabulary for communication. Students will learn to write, read and speak the target language while increasing their listening abilities. Present tense verbs will be the main focus at this level. Students will also gain an appreciation and understanding of the several of the diverse Spanish-speaking countries and their cultures.

### **Spanish 2 A/B**

10th-12th (yearlong course)

This Spanish class is structured in units. Students expand their working vocabulary and their verb tenses to include irregular preterit tense and imperfect tense. Students increase their understanding in writing, reading, listening and speaking in the target language. Students also continue to increase their understanding of the diverse Spanish-speaking world and its culture.

### **Spanish 3 A/B Honors**

11th-12th (yearlong course)

This class focuses more on communicating with others by utilizing the target language and moving away from English. Students continue expanding their knowledge of vocabulary, grammatical structure and verb tenses [future & conditional]. This year also includes memorizing poetry, and presenting about Spanish-speaking countries in more depth.

### **Spanish 4A/B Honors**

12th (yearlong course)

This class focuses more on speaking & reading primarily in Spanish. Students listen to native Spanish speakers to increase comprehension and continue to build their vocabulary knowledge and verb tenses (*imperativo/mandatory subjuntivo*). Students read short passages working toward longer passages. This course uses Socratic seminar to discuss course readings.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **American Government A/B**

9th (yearlong course)

Government is the study of the human relationship with power. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical/individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. In this course students learn the origins and implications of the U.S. constitution. Students are expected to gain an understanding of the mechanics of American government, as well as an appreciation for how and why it has evolved since the time of its inception.

### **Economics**

11th (semester course)

Economics is the study of individual choices regarding limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants. The purpose of this course is to enable students to study the works of past economists to understand the economy and its relationship to individuals and the government. This course reviews the earliest teachings in this subject up to present day. We discuss how society has moved from an agrarian economic system to the modified capitalist system we have in the U.S. It encourages students to understand, analyze, and draw conclusions about the evolution of the economic system of Western Civilization, as well as the economic decisions they make and see in everyday life.

### **7th Grade History A/B**

7th (yearlong course)

History is the study of causation. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical/individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. Seventh grade world history delves into a study of world history from prehistoric times through the late middle ages.

### **8th Grade History A/B**

8th (yearlong course)

History is the study of causation. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical/individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. This course delves into the period of history surrounding the United States from the end of WWII to the end of the Cold War. Students analyze the following topics: the Cold War, the Chinese cultural revolution, the decline of European colonialism, the U.S. Constitution, the American civil rights movement, the Middle East and oil politics, environmental activism, and the war on terror.

**Political Novel**

9th-12th (semester course)

This course is designed to introduce students to the perennial quest for peace and justice in a less than perfect world. The combination of political philosophy and literature are essential in the study of these broad topics. There is a large emphasis on the study of both utopias and dystopias within this literature-based course. Philosophical questions concerning government and the common good are recurring themes throughout this course. We also examine the historical and contemporary political issues rooted in perennial questions about justice. This course also emphasizes the development of reading, writing, and critical thinking skills. Class discussion, challenging the information within the class, and thinking critically are essential to student success. Above all, this course examines human nature and the relationship between those who govern and those who are governed in both utopian and dystopian worlds.

**Senior Classical Compendium**

11th (semester course)

The senior classical compendium is divided into five sections. They are the Dissertation, the Senior Seminar, the Exposition, the Post-Secondary Planning File, and the Examination. This course prepares students for their senior project

**US History A/B**

10th (yearlong course)

History is the study of causation. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical/individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. U.S. History examines the history of the United States from its Native American beginnings through the present day. This course takes an objective look at both the positive and negative forces that shaped our nation and made it what it is today.

**Western Civilization I A/B**

11th (yearlong course)

History is the study of causation. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical and individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. Western Civilization I delves into the period of world history from its beginnings through the Middle Ages. This class places a heavy emphasis on the importance of Judeo-Christian and Greco-Roman thought as the cornerstones of Western Civilization. This course is designed to establish the religious, political, and social contexts crucial to understanding Western Civilization as a whole, connecting the history of these civilizations to our own through the use of Socratic dialogue, rhetoric, and the analysis of primary sources.

## **Western Civilization II A/B**

12th (yearlong course)

History is the study of causation. Its purpose is to encourage good citizenship through the skills of critical and individual analysis of facts, determining the reliability of sources, and a synthesis of all of these to create an overarching understanding of our present. Western Civilization II examines the period of world history from the Renaissance through the present. There is a heavy emphasis on the enlightenment and its contributions to modern understanding of the world. This course is designed to establish the religious, political, and social contexts crucial to understanding Western Civilization as a whole, connecting the history of these civilizations to our own through the use of Socratic dialogue, rhetoric, and the analysis of primary sources.