

La Lumiere School  
2017 - 2018 Course Catalog





# PHILOSOPHY

The core of our mission is to nurture and develop the whole person in an academically challenging environment that promotes active engagement and personal responsibility. Our liberal arts curriculum provides a foundation in English literature and composition, mathematics, social and physical sciences, world languages, theology, ethics, and the creative arts, with a special emphasis on critical thinking and the mastery of oral and written communication. Our academic program provides La Lumiere graduates with a distinct advantage over most of their peers: they are trained to think critically, articulate clearly, and take action confidently—with a solid awareness of morals and values.

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## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Our English courses equip students to read critically, write clearly, speak effectively, and create thoughtfully. Students encounter powerful texts, write often both to discover and to present discoveries, and participate in a literary community committed to asking good questions of texts and to growing in analytical skills.

### Graduation Requirements

- 4 credits of English
- Students must take English each semester at La Lumiere

## **ESL ENGLISH**

Freshmen ESL aims to build confidence, knowledge, and abilities for studying and living in America, specifically as a boarder at La Lumiere. We will compare American history, culture and systems with those of students' own countries in order to deepen comprehension of self and others. The course will also develop listening, speaking, pronunciation, academic vocabulary & study skills.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## **INTRODUCTION TO LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

The *Introduction to Literature and Composition* course aims to help you build the reading, writing, listening, speaking, and thinking skills that you will need in college, in the workplace, and in life. Each student will work to develop her capacity to see the arguments in the world, analyze them, develop opinions and ideas, and express viewpoints clearly and convincingly. This course draws from both classic and contemporary source materials, and, throughout the year, students read novels, poems, essays, and plays, both at home and in class.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## **LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION**

In this course, students learn to understand what makes a work worth reading, studying, and remembering. Careful attention is paid to developing literary analysis skills, both oral and written, and students also continue to pursue growth in their writing skills.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or department approval

## **SOPHOMORE LITERATURE LAB**

This course runs concurrently with the Sophomore Literature class. It aids ELLs with comprehension of literary works; develops vocabulary, writing, and discussion skills; builds confidence for Sophomore Literature class participation; and provides time and space for working on assignments.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## LITERATURE SEMINAR: SHAKESPEARE IN TANDEM

Four hundred years after his death, William Shakespeare is still influencing new audiences through his works, which are celebrated for their universality and timeless genius. In fact, Shakespeare's work has been adapted time and time again - from Brad Kaaya's *O* (based on *Othello*) to Stephen Sondheim's *West Side Story* (based on *Romeo and Juliet*). Filmmakers, playwrights, and novelists have recognized the connections between Shakespeare and our present lives and have converted his stories into films, plays, and novels. But have they worked? In this course, students will study at least three Shakespeare plays, each in tandem with modernized versions of those plays and discuss and analyze whether the themes and characters in these plays really do work in more modern settings. The course aims to cover a range of comedies, tragedies, and histories.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## LITERATURE SEMINAR: SPIRITUAL BIOGRAPHY

In this course, students use the tools of literary analysis to examine the biographies and/or autobiographies of important spiritual figures of various faith backgrounds. The course incorporates both common texts (read by the whole class) and individual texts (chosen by each student). We will explore themes related to human agency, integrity, commitment, and spiritual fulfillment. In the literature seminars, students continue to develop the skills for literary study through intensive reading and writing.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## LITERATURE SEMINAR: UNDERDOG AND AMERICAN DREAM

Why do we root for the underdog? In this course, students will study the classic underdogs in literature, from Ben Franklin's construction, to *Oliver Twist*, to some short stories of O. Henry, to the children's novels by Horatio Alger, to *Huckleberry Finn*, to the modern little guys of Willy Loman, and all the way to *Annie*. The goal of this course is to examine the rags-to-riches archetype - both how it appears in literature across cultures and historical time periods and the ways it is re-applied in contemporary society. In the literature seminars, students continue to develop the skills for literary study through intensive reading and writing.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## LITERATURE SEMINAR: WOMEN WRITERS

What is women's literature? How do women write? Why do women write? What can women's literature do—and for whom? This course introduces students to a range of female authors from the British and American traditions, from the middle ages to the present. We will read important statements in feminist theory alongside our primary texts to provide us with a critical vocabulary for literary analysis. In the literature seminars, students continue to develop the skills for literary study through intensive reading and writing.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## WRITING SEMINAR: JOURNALISM AND NEW MEDIA

The Journalism course focuses on research, interview, and informative writing skills. After a historical analysis of news from print, magazine, and television sources, the course introduces students to the process of gathering facts from primary and secondary sources, obtaining interviews, and working as reporters in the field, all in accordance with a code of journalistic ethics and an understanding of their First Amendment rights. After examining the ethical dilemmas inherent in the communication business, students will strengthen their ability to write objectively, as well as to edit and improve copy, all while gaining an ability to look critically at other media outlets. This course offers an opportunity for students to meet with real journalists, from sports writers at the NY Times to local magazine publishers, in order to gain an up-to-the-minute understanding of the changing state of newsgathering. Students will also be writing for a real audience by contributing to a school blog (found on the LL webpage) as part of developing their unique journalistic voices.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## WRITING SEMINAR: NATURE AND TECHNOLOGY

In the Nature and Technology writing seminar, students develop their writing skills while exploring the theme of nature and technology. Students read a variety of texts focused on this theme in order to identify the major concerns and perspectives and compose several types of writing in response to the theme (including expository writing, creative writing, and poetry). The goal of the writing seminars is to move beyond mere mechanics and produce writing that is clear, coherent, and creative. Students will improve research skills in order to refine topics and organize what is known about a topic, develop a controlled yet unique style and voice, and use a variety of strategies to adapt writing to various audiences and purposes.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## WRITING SEMINAR: PASSIONS AND PASTIMES

In the Passions and Pastimes writing seminar, students develop their writing skills while exploring various human passions and pastimes, including sports, the arts, and leisure activities. Students read a variety of texts focused on these themes in order to identify the major concerns and perspectives, and compose several types of writing (expository and creative) in response to the themes uncovered. The goal of the writing seminars is to move beyond mere mechanics and produce writing that is clear, coherent, and creative. Students will improve research skills in order to pursue a line of inquiry, develop a controlled yet unique style and voice, and use a variety of strategies to adapt writing to various audiences and purposes.

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## WRITING SEMINAR: THE ART OF RHETORIC

The Art of Rhetoric will give students the rhetorical skills needed to argue persuasively and to communicate well. We will study classical rhetorical devices, seeing how those devices resonate in modern prose. We will read outstanding essays, focusing not only on *what* is said but *how*. We will focus on style, rhetorical invention, writing for multiple purposes, and making grammatical choices for meaning rather than mere correctness. Students will learn and apply numerous rhetorical devices to multiple genres (including expository writing, creative writing, and/or poetry).

One Semester | Prerequisites: *Literature and Composition* or department approval

## AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION

As indicated by the Advanced Placement designation, this is a rigorous college-level English literature course. We will explore literature from ancient to modern times, from Western and non-Western authors, from the fiction, drama, and poetry genres. Students will demonstrate mastery of the elements of literature through written and oral analysis of the works studied, including an independent research project. We will also improve our ability to interact with the ideas of others through class discussion, the study of secondary sources, and written responses. An ongoing study of vocabulary and literary terms will make us more observant readers and more precise writers. We expect all students in the course to take the AP English Literature exam in May.

One Semester | Prerequisites: Senior standing and a B+ or higher average in Junior level English classes or department approval

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

This course introduces students to the rewards and demands of creative expression. Specifically, the course focuses on writing in three genres: poetry, the short story, and creative non-fiction. By looking at the works of professionals to distill the qualities of excellence and by participating in a weekly writing workshop, students will develop a litany of skills and start to build a creative writing portfolio, with the goal being to have one work ready to send into publishers by the end of the semester.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: None

## **SPEECH**

This fall semester course helps students develop public speaking skills, including voice and physical presence, with an emphasis on honing narrative performances. In the first half of the course, students will select, practice, and perform monologues. In the second portion of the course, we emphasize storytelling; students write short personal narratives on a theme and then prepare these stories for the stage. Students have the option of choosing a piece for competition in the spring semester.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: None



## **MATH DEPARTMENT**

The math department prides itself in its diversity, experience, and response to the needs of our students. Over their time at La Lumiere, students will develop a relationship with math faculty that promotes both self-advocacy and self-reliance. Each course focuses on problem solving and critical thinking and prepares students for any field of study.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- 4 credits of Math, to include Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry (PreCalculus recommended)
- Students must take a Math class each semester while at La Lumiere

## ALGEBRA 1

This is a first year course designed to develop the essential basic mathematical techniques that will be used extensively in future courses. This course will focus on the development of mathematical problem solving skills. Topics include: equations, inequalities, linear functions, systems, exponents, polynomials, factoring, radicals, and quadratics.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## ALGEBRA 2

Algebra 2 is a second year algebra course designed to prepare students for higher mathematics classes. Topics covered will include; properties of numbers, equations and their graphs, systems of equations, intro to matrices, polynomials, rational expressions, quadratic equations, conic sections, logarithmic and exponential equations, including problem solving and applications in all of these areas. This course will focus on developing reasoning and problem solving skills while providing a foundation for additional mathematical studies.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Algebra 1 or approval from the department

## ALGEBRA 2 - HONORS

Algebra 2 Honors is an in-depth second year algebra course designed to prepare students for higher mathematics classes. Topics covered will include properties of numbers, equations and their graphs, systems of equations, matrices, polynomials, rational expressions, quadratic equations, conic sections, and logarithmic and exponential equations, and includes problem solving and applications in all of these areas. This course will be fast paced and cover the topics listed above in-depth.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Algebra 1 or approval from the department

## GEOMETRY

Geometry is an examination of the properties of two- and three-dimensional figures, and the application of algebraic reasoning to find lengths and measures. Topics include: points, lines, planes and angles; measurement; constructions using a compass and an iPad application; proofs; congruency and similarity; polygons and polyhedron; transformations; perimeter, area, and volume; circles.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Algebra 2 or approval from the department

## GEOMETRY - HONORS

Honors Geometry is an accelerated examination of the properties of two- and three-dimensional figures, and the application of algebraic reasoning to find lengths and measures. Topics include: points, lines, planes and angles; measurement; constructions using a compass and an iPad application; proofs; congruency and similarity; polygons and polyhedrons; transformations; perimeter, area, and volume; and circles. This course emphasizes application and enrichment in order to develop a deeper understanding of topics.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Algebra 2 or approval from the department

## PRECALCULUS

Precalculus starts the year reviewing skills learned in your previous algebra courses and then focus on more difficult concepts. Topics covered include: trigonometry, functions, equations and their graphs, systems of equations, matrices, polynomials, rational expressions, logarithmic and exponential equations, sets and sequences, including problem solving and applications in all of these areas. This course will focus on developing reasoning and problem solving skills while providing a foundation for additional mathematical studies.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Algebra 2 and Geometry or approval from the department

## PRECALCULUS - HONORS

This is an honors level course designed to prepare students for the rigor of a first year Calculus class. Topics covered include: polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, polar coordinates and vectors, conic sections, systems of equations, and applications in all of these areas. Students should expect this course to be a step up in difficulty from previous mathematics courses.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Algebra 2 and Geometry or approval from the department

## FINITE MATH

Finite Math is an introduction to mathematical topics with applications to business, management, and social science. The course starts with a review of sets and numbers, followed by an introduction to data sets, counting arguments (combinations and permutations), and the Binomial Theorem, which sets the foundation for elementary probability theory and some basic statistics. Further chapters treat graph theory as it relates to modeling, matrices and vectors, and linear programming. The last topics are financial mathematics.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Algebra 2 and Geometry or approval from the department

## **STATISTICS**

This course introduces students to the use of statistical methods in reasoning, problem-solving, and making predictions. Students study techniques of data analysis, including graphical and numerical approaches. They learn principles of probability and probability distributions in the context of a variety of problems. They also learn how make decisions and predictions with data through the construction and analysis of confidence intervals, hypothesis tests, and p-values.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Successful completion of Geometry

## **AP STATISTICS**

AP Statistics serves to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students in the course will be exposed to four broad conceptual themes: (1) Exploring data by observing patterns and departures from patterns; (2) Planning a study by deciding what factors to examine and how to measure them; (3) Anticipating patterns by producing models using probability theory and simulations; and (4) Statistical inference in order to confirm models.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Precalculus or approval from the department

## **AP CALCULUS AB**

AP Calculus AB is a college-level introductory Calculus course, with complete coverage of differentiation and single-variable integration. It is required that all students enrolled in this course take the AP Calculus AB exam in May; this takes the place of the second semester final exam and cannot be exempted.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Precalculus and approval from the department

## **AP CALCULUS BC**

AP Calculus BC is a college-level introductory Calculus course, with complete coverage of differentiation and single-variable integration. It is required that all students enrolled in this course take the AP Calculus BC exam in May; this takes the place of the second semester final exam and cannot be exempted.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: AP Calculus AB and approval from the department

## INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER PROGRAMMING

Introduction to Computer Programming is an examination of the logic, syntax, structure, and construction of computer programs. Students learn how to build interactive, practical programs and games using variables, conditional statements, loops, and methods. The primary focus of study is on the use of the Java programming language in preparation for the Advanced Placement Computer Science A course.

One-Semester | Prerequisites: Geometry or approval from the instructor

## AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

Advanced Placement Computer Science A is an in-depth analysis of computer science principles and object-oriented program design using the Java language. Students will construct organized, efficient programs; analyze classes, methods, and concepts; and learn to troubleshoot and debug Java methods and classes as they prepare for the Spring AP exam.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ in Introduction to Computer Programming and approval from the instructor

## PYTHON PROGRAMMING

This course is an extended guided independent study of computer science principles using the Python programming language for students who have successfully completed the AP Computer Science A course. Students are challenged to construct a variety of Python programs that demonstrate a wide range of applications and principles. Study includes advanced topics and features including animated graphics, recursion, list comprehensions, regular expressions, and lambda operators.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Successful completion of AP Computer Science A and approval of the instructor



## SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science Department encourages students to explore their world at every scale, from microscopic to intergalactic. We strive to provide our students with a wide array of valuable educational experiences, providing hands-on laboratory activities whenever practical in order to complement learning through other course activities. We believe that a solid foundation in the natural sciences provides our students with the tools they will need to think critically and evaluate issues logically as they prepare for the future.

### Graduation Requirements

- 3 credits of Science
- Biology is required. Chemistry and Physics are strongly recommended.

## ***BIOLOGY***

Biology is a course devoted to the study of the characteristics of life and of living things and how they interact with one another. The subject matter deals with how living things are organized, (i.e., how they are put together), how they function (i.e., how life processes happen), the relationships between different organisms and between organisms and their environment (i.e. classification and ecology), and how organisms adapt to changes in their environment. This course emphasizes the development of an understanding of the concepts through lab activities, demonstrations, problem solving activities, class discussions, and other types of activities in order to provide a solid foundation for future work in science.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## ***ADVANCED BIOLOGY***

The goal of advanced biology is to prepare students for a science major college biology course and to introduce students to extensively used lab techniques and procedures. In the first semester, students focus on cell biology. In the second semester, students study genetics (molecular & Mendelian) and biotechnology. Over the course of the year, students will utilize the compound microscope, pipettes (micro and standard), spectrophotometer, volumeter, gel electrophoresis units, microcentrifuge, thermocycler, and incubator. In addition, students will learn how the processes of spectrophotometry, chromatography, gel electrophoresis, microarrays, bacterial transformations, restriction enzymes, and PCR (polymerase chain reaction) are used as tools in the laboratory.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## ***ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY***

Anatomy and Physiology at La Lumiere is a science elective course designed for upper classman to explore an interest in the human body, how it is structured, and how it functions. The class will meet everyday for 45 minutes to learn and review material related to both anatomy and physiology of the human body. Material will be delivered approximately 50% lecture based, 25% group and activity based (including laboratory work) and 25% individual presentation based. There will also be daily homework and/or reading assignments.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry or department approval

## **ECOLOGY**

Using the physical campus at La Lumiere as a laboratory as much as possible, this course will seek to identify basic ecological principles including populations, ecosystems and human impact on the Earth. There will also be elements of field biology such as taxonomic identification, collection and conservation. Emphasis will be placed on current topics such as climate change, population, invasive species, National Parks, and species conservation.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Biology

## **CHEMISTRY**

Chemistry: A Survey Course is a non-honors, introductory chemistry course examining the properties of matter and energy. This class will cover a wider breadth of material than the honors course, though not to the same depth or intensity. It will help prepare students who may find themselves taking a Chemistry class in college with a basic working knowledge of the language and principles of chemistry. The subject matter deals with an examination of the principles that govern the properties and reactions of materials as well as an introduction to the energy changes associated with these reactions. The course places more emphasis upon conceptual knowledge with problem solving and lab experiences.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Biology

## **CHEMISTRY - HONORS**

Chemistry is an introductory course examining the properties of matter and energy. This course will prepare students who may wish to take a Chemistry class in college, or take Advanced Chemistry during their Junior or Senior years. The subject matter deals with the principles that govern the properties and reactions of materials as well as the energy changes associated with these reactions. The course places emphasis upon problem solving and lab experiences in order to prepare a proper foundation for future studies in science.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Biology or department approval

## **ADVANCED CHEMISTRY**

Advanced Chemistry is a course designed to cover the topics that build upon what the students have learned in a first year general chemistry course. The course will assist the students in becoming proficient in chemical problem solving, while helping them to attain a reasonable depth of comprehension of fundamental chemical principles. The course also places emphasis on developing competence in problem solving skills, on developing the ability to think clearly while expressing ideas in a logical manner, and on developing and perfecting lab skills and techniques.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Chemistry - Honors or department approval

## PHYSICS

This course is a yearlong introduction to several major topics in physics, including energy, force, light, sound, heat, and nuclear physics. Students successfully completing this course will have a good foundation in physics and will be able to build upon it in a college-level physics course.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Biology

## AP PHYSICS 1

AP Physics 1 can be taken either as a stand-alone college preparatory course or as the first year of a two-year course (the second year is AP Physics 2). It is required that all students enrolled in this course take the AP Physics 1 exam in May; this takes the place of the second semester final exam and cannot be exempted. Topics covered include a complete study of mechanics and dynamics (including rotational motion and harmonic motion), waves and sound, electric circuits, and the theory of relativity.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Department approval

## AP PHYSICS 2

AP Physics 2 is the second year of the two-year college preparatory physics program at La Lumiere. It is required that all students enrolled in this course take the AP Physics 1 and 2 exams in May; this takes the place of the second semester final exam and cannot be exempted. Topics covered include fluid dynamics, thermodynamics, electric potential, magnetism, electromagnetic radiation, optics, and modern physics.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Department approval

## ENGINEERING

The purpose of this class is to learn and apply methods of engineering to hands-on projects. Students will research a project, tinker and work with different materials, then build a device that meets specific parameters. After testing their device, students will repeat the process so that at the end of the semester they are ready to present their best efforts to the class.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: Instructor approval



## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT***

The Social Sciences Department is committed to teaching students more than just the dominant versions of events. We encourage students to think critically about history in order to foster students' understanding of diverse cultural perspectives across different time periods. Through differentiated instruction and project based learning, students connect with history beyond the facts and figures. We value knowledge of the past as a way to comprehend the present and future.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- 3 credits of Social Science coursework
- Must include World History and US History courses

## WORLD HISTORY 1

As an introduction to high school social studies, world history is meant to expand student historical and geographic knowledge. World History I will encourage students to explore the art, architecture, and culture of various civilizations up to the European Middle Ages. Students will participate in primary source readings, discussions and analyses, lectures, and collaborative learning experiences. These classwork activities will develop students' historical and critical thinking skills and give students the ability to detect trends, analyze movements and events, and develop a sense of history.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## WORLD HISTORY 2

World History 2 is a year-long course which covers material similar to the AP World History Exam from the years 1000 AD to 2000 AD. Major topics in this first semester will be The Age of Mercantilism, The Age of Enlightenment, The American and French Revolutions, The Industrial Revolution and Imperialism, World War I, and Nationalist Movements in the Developing World. Following the recent development in the AP World History curriculum itself, more emphasis is placed on students understanding themes and interconnections in world history and less emphasis on students memorizing facts of isolated events. In addition, greater emphasis is also placed on students acquiring and developing historical skills such as crafting historical arguments, chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, and applying historical interpretation and synthesis.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Successful completion of World History 1

## AP WORLD HISTORY

This course explores the major political, social, economic and cultural developments in the history of the world from prehistory to the present day. What can we hope to achieve from an investigation of World History? Obviously we cannot dwell on details, as there is too much to cover in too little time. Therefore, the course will be broken down into major chronological areas in global history, focusing on thematic issues involving comparisons and analyses of changes and continuities over time. The approach will be roughly chronological but occasionally will take the “long view” over several centuries, since even the most seemingly fundamental changes do not erase centuries of tradition overnight. The vast chronological and geographical breadth of our topic will be somewhat mitigated by unifying themes stressed throughout the course including, but not limited to, the following:

- The nature and reliability of historical evidence
- The interaction between human beings and their environment
- Development and interaction of cultures, including exploration and cross-cultural influences in belief systems, arts, patterns of thought, science and technology
- State-building, expansion and conflict, including comparison of political systems and ideologies and comparative analyses of empires
- Creation, expansion and interaction of economic systems on a regional, trans-regional and global scale
- Development and transformation of social structures, particularly gender roles and relations, constructions of racial and ethnic identities, the development of social and economic classes.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in World History 1 or department approval

## UNITED STATES HISTORY

This course is an Introduction to the History of the United States of America. Great emphasis will be placed on studying the social history of normal people from various backgrounds. Following the recent development in the AP US History curriculum itself, more emphasis is placed on understanding themes and interconnections in US history and less emphasis on students memorizing facts of isolated events. In addition, greater emphasis is placed on students acquiring and developing historical skills such as crafting historical arguments, chronological reasoning, comparison and contextualization, and applying historical interpretation and synthesis.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Successful completion of World History 2 or AP World History

## AP UNITED STATES HISTORY

This course is intended to be an expansion of the knowledge already learned in a US History course and requires students to go well beyond the memorization of historical facts and dates. Students will be expected to explore a variety of historical sources, both primary and secondary. In their exploration of United States history from 1491 to the present day, students will be expected to develop historical perspective and apply critical analysis to craft historical arguments. The course will seek to develop the four historical thinking skills set forth by the AP curriculum. First, the course will seek to develop an understanding of chronological reasoning by discussing historical patterns and the importance of periodization. Students will then develop comparison and contextualization skills by studying the great diversity of cultures that have inhabited North America and the United States' global interactions since 1491. The third skill type is crafting historical arguments from historical evidence, which will be developed through extensive historical writing in the class. Finally, historical interpretation and synthesis will be developed by our extensive discussions of content and by the investigation of selected historical writings throughout the year. In terms of the periodization of content, the course is divided into 9 chronological units, subdivided into 104 thematic lessons. The goal of this course is to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Exam with the expectation that students study United States History as amateur historians.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in AP World History / World History 2 or department approval

## GOVERNMENT

United States Government and Politics is a one semester, comprehensive course designed to give students a solid understanding of the constitutional foundations as well as the fundamentals of democracy and governance. The course will analyze the importance of checks and balances, court decisions, executive power, legislative processes, and the media. All of these concepts will be weighed and measured against the Constitution, most notably in the context of the original intent of the Founding Fathers, watershed court cases, and our current situation as a society in the second millennium. Students will be required to participate in class discussions centered around controversial Supreme Court decisions. It is imperative that students come to class prepared to discuss assigned readings and exercises. Through class discussion and analysis, students will develop valuable problem-solving skills, conflict management strategies, and the self-control needed to engage in respectful and meaningful dialogue with fellow classmates. Controversy will be encouraged to promote an environment similar to that of the Founders at the Constitutional Convention, where compromise and mutual respect was critical to drafting a Constitutional government.

One Semester | Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or higher

## **AP UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT**

This course seeks to foster an understanding and a love of the American political process in preparation for the AP United States Government & Politics Exam. The course is equivalent to a college level political science course, which means that the students will be expected to be active learners. Students will be expected to complete a thorough amount of required readings and research current political topics. The goal and focus of this course is to provide an introduction to an active political life. Students will be exploring the constitutional foundations of American politics, the nature of the American political process, the institutions of governance, and the policy choices made created by the American political process. Needless to say, the course will be rigorous.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in AP World History or World History 2 or approval department approval

## **AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the concepts and methods necessary to develop an understanding of some of the world's diverse political structures. We will examine six countries in detail: China, Great Britain, Russia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Iran. These states represent a vast range of cultural complexity and governance, allowing us to uncover similarities and differences across a wide ranging ideological spectrum. The three world approach to categorization will be used to place governments in the proper context. Empirical and normative methods of comparison will be implemented consistently to analyze and assess nations historically and currently. This will equip students with the ability to identify political behaviors and patterns that lead to economic and political changes.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in AP World History or World History 2 or department approval

## **AP PSYCHOLOGY**

The purpose of AP Psychology is to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. A variety of activities, demonstrations, and projects will be provided to meet this goal of instructing scientific and empirical approaches.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Social Sciences coursework or department approval

## **ECONOMICS**

Economics is the study of money and business behaviors with an ultimate goal of understanding the processes necessary for an exchange economy to function. Throughout the class, we will examine both theoretical and real world applications of economic behaviors and systems. Due to the fluid nature of economic policies, we will spend a great deal of time exploring current global economic issues. The study of economics will develop students' critical thinking and reasoning skills as well as foster research and writing abilities.

One Semester | Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or higher

## **POLITICAL ACTIVISM**

Political Activism is an interactive class, and the path of the course will be determined by the students in it. We will start by studying the psychology of changing opinions and behaviors, then move on to a study of how to accomplish this. We will learn about many different movements, techniques, and challenges of activism. The course will include discussions with working activists and policy-makers as well as projects that give you experience with activist endeavors.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: None

## **DEBATE AND CURRENT EVENTS**

This course is designed to elicit critical thinking and dialogue about controversial topics. Students will be required to become familiar with all the various angles of the topic in question so as to better understand complex problems in our world today. By engaging in civil discourse with other members of the class, participants should search for points of possible agreement and common ground. In contrast to a competitive debate format, winning the argument is secondary to solving problems and revealing truth. Some of the discussion topics that will be covered are state surveillance in the digital world, gun control, affirmative action, military intervention, and immigration.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: None

## **RADICAL FIGURES IN US HISTORY**

What is radicalism? Why would a historical figure be labeled as radical? Where can radicalism be seen throughout U.S. History? What are the goals and objectives of radical political movements? This course introduces students to a range of radical historical figures within United States History from the Gilded Age through World War II. We will read important statements in radical political theory alongside our independent writing projects which will analyze and challenge the label of radical given to a specific historical figure of each student's choosing. Students will engage in in-depth research, gain exposure to databases, archives, and secondary sources, and practice in-depth revisions to complete a final research paper and formal presentation of their work by the end of the term.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: None

## **CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY AND CULTURE**

This is a one week trip to the Czech capital city. Students will experience the majesty and tragedy of Prague's old town. From the sites where dissidents were persecuted or killed by the Nazi and Soviet occupations to Golden Lane, where Franz Kafka once lived, the city offers an incredible backdrop to learn about Central Europe's turbulent past. Excursions outside of the city will take students to two UNESCO world heritage sites: Cesky Krumlov, a picturesque village in southern Bohemia, and Kutna Hora, which is home to the uniquely macabre "bone church." Other highlights include the Terezin Concentration Camp, Prague's Jewish Quarter, and a Czech opera at the magnificent National Theater. Each day students will complete a blog entry to reflect on their experience as well as complete a course workbook to gain a general understanding of Czech history and language.

Summer Trip | Prerequisites: Application and approval



## *WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT*

The World Language Department is committed to developing proficiency in our target languages and to cultivating interest in their respective cultures. The skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking are consistently practiced in our language courses.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- Students must reach the third level of a non-native language.

## **FRENCH 1**

In French 1, students are introduced to the sounds of the French language as they develop the four basic skills: understanding, speaking, reading and writing. The emphasis during this first year will be on building a working vocabulary while learning basic grammatical concepts. Students are also introduced to aspects of French culture. From the first day of class students are encouraged to use the language as they participate in class discussions, review homework assignments, and perform oral presentations.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## **FRENCH 2**

French 2 is designed to further develop the basic skills acquired in French 1. Basic concepts will be reviewed and more complex grammatical structures will be introduced. Students will be expected to communicate in French both orally and in writing. Additional readings and research will deepen students' knowledge of French culture. The majority of the class will be conducted in French.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in French 1 or department approval

## **FRENCH 3**

French 3 will continue to develop the skills acquired in French 1 and 2. The course will review and reinforce the grammar and vocabulary already learned as well as introduce additional new material. The goal is to integrate the grammar and vocabulary into useful, authentic, spoken, and written language. Literary excerpts and film may be used as a basis for this integration. The majority of the class will be conducted in French.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in French 2 or department approval

## **FRENCH 4**

This course will include a complete review of all previously taught grammar and will integrate it in all four skills with a goal of authentic usage regardless of subject matter. Literary selections and films will be used as the basis for this integration. Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate with reasonable fluency and accuracy in both spoken and written French.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in French 3 or department approval

## ADVANCED FRENCH

This course will include a complete review of all previously taught grammar and will integrate it in all four skills with a goal of authentic usage regardless of subject matter. Literary selections and films will be used as the basis for this integration. Students will be expected to demonstrate the ability to communicate with reasonable fluency and accuracy in both spoken and written French.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Approval from instructor

## LATIN 1

Latin 1 is designed to give students a solid foundation in the basic grammar and vocabulary of the Latin language as well as introduce the civilization and literature of the ancient Romans. The primary emphasis of the course is to develop reading and translation skills in Latin while learning the first three declensions of nouns and adjectives, personal and relative pronouns, all four conjugations of verbs in the present system, both active and passive, as well as indirect statement. Culture topics include Roman houses, weddings, clothing, and literature.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## LATIN 2

Latin is designed to increase students' knowledge of Latin grammar and vocabulary, to continue their introduction to the culture and writings of the ancient Romans, and to strengthen the skills they learned in Latin 1. The primary emphasis of the course is to improve reading and translation skills in Latin while learning the perfect system of verbs, 4th and 5th declension nouns, demonstrative pronouns, more infinitives, participles, comparison of adjectives and adverbs, deponents, as well as some of the forms and uses of the subjunctive mood. Culture topics include a unit on Pompeii, Roman education, Greek heroes and monsters, among others.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Latin 1 or department approval

## LATIN 3

This course is designed to complete students' study of Latin grammar, and to introduce them to the conventions of Roman poetry. Students will transition to a reading/translation-focused course after the first semester. During the second semester, students will begin to read real Latin in the form of selections from Ovid's *Metamorphoses*. They will continue to develop and strengthen their knowledge of vocabulary and grammar, while expanding that knowledge to include features specific to poetry, such as scansion. In addition, students will begin to gain an understanding of the cultural and historical background behind the works they read, and learn to think critically about, and to analyze, Roman literature on thematic and poetic bases.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Latin 2 or department approval

## LATIN 4 - LATIN LITERATURE

In Latin 4 - Literature, students will continue to develop and improve skills in reading and translating through a year-long examination of Virgil's epic poem, *The Aeneid*. In addition, students will gain an understanding of the cultural and historical background behind the work and will learn to further analyze Roman literature on a thematic and poetic basis. Skills in grammar and vocabulary will be reviewed throughout the year through homework assignments, daily quizzes, and in-class review.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Latin 3 or department approval

## SPANISH 1

The primary goal of teaching a foreign language is that each student acquires the ability to communicate the target language through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. These four skills of the language are consistently reinforced in Spanish 1. In the first year of Spanish, students begin to build their vocabulary and grammar structures. They are introduced to a wide variety of lessons and begin to explore the varying cultures of the 21 Spanish speaking countries. The course is taught using an online text book and additional supplements including online videos and Spanish instructional websites.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: None

## SPANISH 2

The primary goal of teaching a foreign language is that each student acquires the ability to communicate the target language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills of the language are consistently reinforced in Spanish 2. In the second year of Spanish, students continue to build their vocabulary and grammar structures. They are expected to utilize the material learned during Spanish 1, as Spanish 2 builds from this course. We continue to explore the varying cultures of the 21 Spanish speaking countries. The course is taught using an online text book and additional supplements including online videos and Spanish instructional websites.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Spanish 1 or department approval

## SPANISH 3

The primary goal of teaching a foreign language is that each student acquires the ability to communicate the target language through listening, speaking, reading and writing. These four skills of the language are consistently reinforced in Spanish 3. In the third year of Spanish, students continue to build their vocabulary and grammar structures while also reinforcing the previously learned material. By the end of Spanish 3, all grammar and verb tenses have been introduced. We continue to explore the varying cultures of the 21 Spanish speaking countries.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: C- or higher in Spanish 2 or or department approval

## **AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

This is a college preparatory course where all language skills are practiced. We continuously practice listening, speaking, reading and writing while simultaneously acquiring new vocabulary. All of the grammar that was previously learned is reinforced for proficiency. We continue to explore the cultures of the 21 Spanish speaking countries. Our reading and audio materials are taken from the *AP Spanish Language and Culture 5 Steps to a 5* online text. Students have the option of taking the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam upon completion of the course.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: B+ or higher in Spanish 3 or instructor's approval

## **ADVANCED SPANISH LITERATURE**

This is a college preparatory course where all language skills are practiced. We continuously practice listening, speaking, reading and writing while simultaneously acquiring new vocabulary. All of the grammar that was previously learned is reinforced for proficiency. We continue to explore the cultures of the 21 Spanish speaking countries. Our reading and audio materials are taken from the *AP Spanish Language and Culture 5 Steps to a 5* online text. Students have the option of taking the AP Spanish Language and Culture exam upon completion of the course.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: *AP Spanish Language and Culture* and instructor's approval



## **THEOLOGY/PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**

The Theology Department is dedicated to introducing students to and cultivating them in the intellectual and practical aspects of religious belief and philosophical reflection. This is accomplished by training them to engage critically and charitably with a wide array of religious and philosophical views on reality, ethics, God, and human nature.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- 0.5 credit of either Biblical Literacy or World Religions
- Students must take Ethics during their senior year

## **BIBLICAL LITERACY**

In this class we will be studying the Old Testament (OT) and the New Testament (NT). It will enable you to recognize allusions to the OT and NT in literature, art, and Western culture. This class will focus on OT tradition and NT application in order to encourage faith formation. During this term, a familiarization will be developed with the major characters, vocabulary, and stories in the Bible. Students will also be exposed to introductory theological material.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## **WORLD RELIGIONS**

This class begins and ends with humanity's big questions: What is the meaning of life? Is there a God? What happens after you die? Is the Universe moral & just? What does it mean to be human? During the course of this semester we will explore together how different world religions and cultures have answered these questions. Major philosophies explored will be Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, Native American Spirituality, Goddess Spirituality, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A major theme of this class is also to explore different "ways of knowing" the answers to these big questions through the use of different faculties: reason, emotion, faith, imagination, intuition, language, memory, and experience. The goal of this course is to assist students in the exploration of these questions by looking at how different religions and cultures have approached them. As such, we will not only read about religious ideas but also experience them through doing yoga, meditation, mandala-making, tai-chi, calligraphy, and field trips.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## **ETHICS**

The primary goal of this course is to think critically about right and wrong in human actions. This includes thinking about the meaning of human life itself, the ultimate basis of right and wrong in general, and the application of ethical principles to particular controversial cases that affect our lives and our daily choices. The course includes an intensive study of logic, extensive primary source readings in moral philosophy (e.g., Plato, Aristotle, Aquinas, Hume, Kant, Mill), and study and debate of matters of contemporary controversy such as abortion, euthanasia, capital punishment, and animal rights.

One Semester | Prerequisites: Senior standing

## **INTRODUCTION TO SYMBOLIC LOGIC**

The goal of this course is to expand upon the study of logic initiated within the Ethics course and to explore the philosophical foundations and applications of Aristotelian Logic.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: Sophomore standing or instructor's approval



## *CREATIVE ARTS DEPARTMENT*

We believe that the arts have intrinsic human value. Our program offers an emphasis on creativity and is accessible to students at all levels. We prioritize an interdisciplinary approach to the arts, forging connections between the arts and other subjects.

### **Graduation Requirements**

- 0.5 credit of Creative Arts coursework (graduation years 2018 - 2020)
- 1 credit of Creative Arts coursework (graduation years 2021 and beyond)

## INTRODUCTION TO DRAMA

This is an introductory course that examines the history and art of theatre. Recognizing that drama is an ancient and continuing aspect of human civilization, the first part of the semester will explore the historical aspects of the theatre. Students will begin their study in ancient Greece, the setting surrounding the birth of theatre as we know it, and then survey the major innovations that ushered drama into its modern existence. Several major works of the Western canon that represent hallmarks in the development of drama will be studied during this time. Recognizing that drama is not merely an artifact of the past but is a living art, we will spend the second half of the semester writing and producing a one-act play. Students will be introduced to light design, set design and construction, sound design, costume design, make-up design, stage management, and properties.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## FOUNDATIONS OF ART

Foundations of Art is a semester long course for students to focus on the building blocks of visual thinking and art making. Students will learn to analytically and intuitively problem solve using drawing and 2-dimensional design skills. Students will also gain an introduction to color theory and 3-dimensional design. Brief sections of art history will also be studied.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## ART STUDIO 2-D/3-D

Art Studio 2-D/3-D is a year-long advanced art course that covers studies in drawing, printmaking, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and beginning casting and moldmaking. Students may take the first semester independently of the second semester, but you may not enroll in second semester without first having completed the first semester.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## ADVANCED PROJECTS IN ART

Advanced Projects in Art Studio is a course for the student who has met all previous requirements in art and wishes to pursue concentrated studies in specific 2-D or 3-D media in order to prepare a portfolio for college. Each student will meet with the instructor for an evaluation of weaknesses and strengths culminating in a rigid course of self-driven projects meant to enhance the student's art experience and goals. Monthly critiques, self-evaluation, and a weekly drawing journal will also be required. Students will end the year with an art exhibition of their cumulative work.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## **MUSIC APPRECIATION**

Students will learn to trace the historical musical trends which have shaped the sounds of their favorite songs and musical artists. The course will begin with a four week exploration of the historical, social, cultural, and musical impact of the Blues on Contemporary Music. A second unit will explore the roots of Western European music. A final project will consist of performing a song or an instrumental work for the class, either as a soloist or as an ensemble. This course fulfills students' first-year art-credit requirement.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## **CHOIR**

Concert Choir is an opportunity for students to grow as musicians. Singing is the foundation of all music, whether choral or instrumental. Learn how to make your body an efficient musical instrument, pitch tuning through vocal intonation, intra-personal skills required to make music in a group, and musical expressive techniques to bring music off the page and into your listener's hearts.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## **JAZZ BAND**

Jazz Ensemble provides students who can play an instrument an opportunity to expand their performance experience through improvisation. Students will listen to music and incorporate the ideas of world-class musicians into their own playing. They will learn how to express their own musical ideas in a spontaneous way. Students will improve their sense of rhythm and expand their understanding of scales and chords.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## **MUSIC PERFORMANCE SKILLS**

This course is for students who have participated in a La Lumiere music ensemble for at least one year (Concert Choir, Jazz Ensemble, or Chamber Ensemble) or who have taken Music Appreciation. This course will combine opportunities for students to become more proficient on a musical instrumental, or as vocalists, and to gain a deeper understanding of music-theory concepts. Students will apply music theory to performances in which they are active participants. These performances will involve students in several ways: as solo instrumentalists (or vocalists), as members of an in-class ensemble, as conductors, as composers, and as improvisers. All performances will take place in-class and will be directed toward developing long-term musicianship skills that will aid students in their participation in future music performances at La Lumiere and beyond.

One Semester | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## AP MUSIC THEORY

The ultimate goal of an AP Music Theory course is to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The achievement of this goal may be best promoted by integrated approaches to the student's development of aural skills through listening exercises, sight-singing skills through performance exercises, written skills through written exercises, compositional skills through creative exercises, and analytical skills through analysis of musical scores.

Yearlong | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval

## PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography course aims to teach students to appreciate the images around them and create their own works of art using their cameras. Students will learn the technical aspects of manually controlling a camera (aperture, shutter speed, white balance, ISO, and focus). After learning the basics, students will apply their skills in a variety of domains, including cityscape, landscape, portrait, candid, food, and sport photography. The final assessment for the course will be creating a web portfolio of student work.

One Semester | Prerequisites: None

## VIDEOGRAPHY

Introduction to videography basics and the Adobe suite. Students will learn how to shoot, edit, and render short films/trailers over the course of the semester.

Wednesday Elective | Prerequisites: Instructor's approval