

**2024-2025**

# Humanities

*Course Offerings*

## **WORLD CULTURES: DAWN OF CIVILIZATION TO THE MIDDLE AGES 9**

This course investigates the development of various societies from the dawn of civilization in the 4th millennium BCE into the Middle Ages. Students will seek to understand and appreciate the development of diverse cultural traditions and ideas from around the globe and realize their relevance in history and to our world today. Students will learn foundational skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and historical research.

## **WESTERN CIVILIZATION: RENAISSANCE TO THE MODERN ERA 10**

This course examines the development of modern civilization in Europe from the late Middle Ages to the present. Students will seek to understand the ideas, cultural movements, and themes of change that transformed European society into the modern age and investigate the impact of these developments on the rest of the world. Students will learn to critically analyze historical sources, write analytical essays, and conduct independent research.

## **AMERICAN HISTORY 11, 12**

This course examines the roots of American civilization and its development into the 21st century. Students will learn the responsibilities of effective citizenship in a democracy and examine the extent to which America has held true to the ideals set forth in its founding documents. Students will learn to read, assess, and reconcile a range of perspectives on major historical controversies, write a series of well-crafted essays that tie together the strands of a complex historical question, and produce a significant historiographic research paper as part of a short seminar with their classmates.

## **AMERICAN HISTORY (ADV) 11, 12**

This course examines the roots of American civilization and its development into the 21st century. Students will learn the responsibilities of effective citizenship in a democracy and examine the extent to which America has held true to the ideals set forth in its founding documents. Students will learn to read, assess, and reconcile a range of perspectives on major historical controversies, write a series of well-crafted essays that tie together the strands of a complex historical question, and produce a significant historiographic research paper as part of a short seminar with their classmates. The Advanced course offers students an experience in college-level historical reading, thinking, and writing. Students most likely to flourish are those who enjoy and appreciate challenging reading assignments and who like to express their ideas both in writing and in discussion. Consideration for placement in the Advanced course begins with a consistent record of academic achievement and evidence of well-developed habits of scholarship, but any student with a passion for history is invited to apply. This course will require some extra summer reading and an early demonstration of full engagement with the material.



## **ECONOMICS (HONORS)**

Advanced Economics is a yearlong elective course for students who want to deeply engage with the study of economic principles. Throughout the year, we will study microeconomic and macroeconomic topics and their impact on government, businesses, society, and the lives of students. Activities will focus on real-world application of economic theory to both historic and modern scenarios. Students will explore topics as wide-ranging as designing their own business, how prices are determined (and how to pay the optimal price), environmental impacts of the market system, and how to measure and understand the fluctuations of the macroeconomy. Success in this course requires that students utilize essential skills of both the humanities and mathematics.

## **INTRODUCTION TO ECONOMICS AND PERSONAL FINANCE**

This trimester elective course will provide students with an overview of basic economic principles and their impact on our personal financial decisions. Students will be introduced to the tools of the economist and the role of consumers in their interactions with markets, businesses, and the government. These topics will inform our study of personal finance topics including budgeting, credit, loans, investing, and taxes. In addition, this course is designed to be student-driven and explore topics of interest to students regarding their financial future including being an informed consumer, buying your first car, paying for college, and future careers.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Creative Writing is a workshop-style course that introduces students to three genres of writing: poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. From the simple art of noticing to the craft of storytelling, students will venture together into the wonderful world of essays, stories, and poems. Students will generate original works with an eye on revision as a means of discovery. Students will produce a portfolio that is representative of their learning and growth in the realms of self-reflection, fiction, poetry, and creative nonfiction. Extensive writing experience is not a requirement, but curiosity about the writing process is highly encouraged.

## **CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS**

Campaigns and elections are at the very heart of democracies. They are the catalyst for the creation of a government that serves the needs, wants, and desires of the people. In this course, we will explore the modern political campaign. We will look at the various roles people play in campaigns, political strategy, and the influence of the modern media on the electorate. We will use the 2024 presidential election as a principle lens for discussion and reflection.



## **THIS I BELIEVE**

Every 4th Form student takes an intentional, trimester-long exploration course of what they believe. Students explore spiritual autobiographies and stories from multiple perspectives, create a podcast exploring the beliefs of an adult they admire, and ultimately write their own “This I Believe” statement,” in the vein of renowned journalist Edward Murrow’s radio series. As Murrow put it, they “will write about the rules they live by, the things they have found to be the basic values in their lives.

