

Granite State Arts Academy



Course Catalog 2022-23

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GRANITE STATE ARTS ACADEMY (GSAA) GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

(voted by Board of Trustees, 10/11/16)

To graduate from Granite State Arts Academy all students must earn passing grades and receive the following academic credit as listed:

A minimum of 26 High School Credits in the following areas

Arts	6.0 Credits
English / English Language Arts	4.0 Credits
Mathematics	3.0 Credits
Social Studies	3.0 Credits
Science	2.0 Credits
Wellness	1.5 Credits
Electives *	6.5 Credits
Total	26.0 Credits

Note- Students who intend to apply to college should consult in advance with Guidance on their course selections to ensure that the courses taken at GSAA meet the minimum requirements of a college’s admission standards. There is a recommended chart at the end of this document.

- Even though it is not a graduation requirement, students are strongly encouraged to take at least one credit in World Languages before graduation for colleges that require it. Many selective colleges require a World Language to be taken to the third level of proficiency (e.g. Spanish III)

Other Information

- Transfer students to GSAA in Grade 11 or Grade 12 must meet these above graduation requirements in combination with their previous school with the following exception for the GSAA Art requirement.
- A student who transfers into GSAA in grade 11, must take 3 Art Credits over their last two years. A student who transfers into GSAA in grade 12, must take 1 Art Credit before graduation.
- Students with parental permission may request to substitute a VLACS online course for a failed course to receive credit recovery. Permission must be granted by the Head of School for this. To receive this credit, a student must receive a passing grade in the VLACS Course and it must be completed by June 30 of the school year in which the VLACS course is taken. If the course was taken during the summer for credit recovery, it must be completed by October 1.
- A student who wishes to substitute a VLACS online course for something other than recovery must seek permission from the Head of School after consulting with Guidance.

Required student course load

Unless there are extenuating circumstances as determined by the Head of School, each student is required to maintain the following to be considered a student at GSAA:

- A student must be actively present while attending GSAA. No part-time status is allowed. All students must be enrolled in 6 credits per academic year regardless of their credit total. Even students who have already met the graduation requirements. A student must take at least 3 credits per semester, but freshmen and sophomores should take 4 credits to achieve a total of 26 credits by their graduation date.
- The only exception to this rule pertains to students who are approved for Dual Enrollment at a college, university, or Community College. Dual Enrollment must be applied for in the semester preceding the intended enrollment semester.
- In grade 9-11, students must take 4 credits per semester (wherever possible).

Dual Enrollment

At present, GSAA has articulation agreements with a number of schools of higher education which offers Dual Enrollment. GSAA will attempt to work this out on a case-by-case basis between students and schools of higher education. Permission for Dual Enrollment must be given by the Head of School after a discussion with parents, Guidance, and the school of higher education.

Early Graduation

Unless there are extenuating circumstances students may not graduate until June of their senior year at GSAA. Permission for early graduation must be given by the Head of School with an extensive discussion between parents and Guidance and then approved by the Board of Trustees.

Recommended Credits required for Schools of Higher Education*

Type of School	English	Soc. Studies	Mathematics	Science	World Languages
2-Year College	4	3	3	3	1-2
4-Year College	4	3	3-4	3-4	2-4
Highly Selective 4-Year College	4	4	4-5	4-5	3-4

*Please consult your specific school for college credit requirements. These credits vary with the intended area of specialization as well as the demands for each school.

Dance

Level 1 Dance Courses

Introduction to Dance

0.5 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: None

In this course, students learn the basics of Classical Ballet, Jazz and Modern dance. The students focus on and practice proper alignment, correct technical execution of steps learned and performance quality. Dance composition and improvisational movement are also introduced. Prior knowledge of dance is not a requirement. There is a dance showcase at the ending of the semester.

Dance History

1 credit, (Art), Not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

Dance history is a course that will focus on the development of dance through the twenty-first century. Students will explore social dance, concert dance, and popular/contemporary dance forms through work that will allow them to connect, create, respond and perform. Through movement, video analysis, research, and writing, students will study the roles that dance, and movement have played in history as well as the impact of society and culture on dance through time. Students in this class will participate in a semester-ending dance performance.

World Dance

1 credit, (Art), Not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

World dance is an introductory course designed to survey dances of selected cultures. The idea of what dance means to different cultures is studied and analyzed. Through movement experiences and lecture, students will gain the technique and understanding necessary to perform a selected cultural dance. Students will participate in a semester-ending dance performance.

Level 2 Dance Courses

Intermediate Dance 1

1 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Intro. to Dance or by permission from the instructor with a demonstration of prior experience.

In Intermediate Dance 1 the students focus on improving their technique and performance quality in the disciplines of Classical Ballet, Jazz, and Modern dance. The students also learn about various concepts of dance composition and experiment with improvisational movement. Prior knowledge of dance is required. A dance showcase will be performed at the end of the semester.

Intermediate Dance 2

1 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Intermediate Dance 1 or by permission from the instructor (with a demonstration of prior experience.)

Intermediate Dance 2 is a continuation of skills learned in Intermediate Dance 1. In this class, the students focus on improving their technique and performance quality in the disciplines of Classical Ballet, Jazz, and Modern dance. The students also learn about various concepts of dance composition and experiment with improvisational movement. As a part of this class, the students choreograph a collaborative dance piece to be performed in the dance showcase at the end of the semester.

Dance Technique

0.5 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Intro. to Dance

The focus of this class is to build a strong technical foundation in classical ballet, jazz and modern dance. The emphasis will be on proper alignment, building strength throughout the entire body and working towards developing greater flexibility. The students will be required to perform one dance piece in the showcase at the end of the semester.

Level 3 Dance Courses

Advanced Dance 1

1 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Intermediate Dance 2

This class focuses on developing the strength and flexibility needed to perform more complex dance movements in the disciplines of Ballet, Jazz and Modern dance. A more in-depth study of dance composition and improvisational movement is included. A dance showcase is performed at the end of the semester.

Advanced Dance 2

1 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Advanced Dance 1

Advanced Dance 2 is a continuation of skills learned in Advanced Dance 1. This class focuses on developing the strength and flexibility needed to perform more complex dance movements in the disciplines of Ballet, Jazz and Modern dance. A more in-depth study of dance composition and improvisational movement is included. Each student in this class demonstrates their skills and knowledge learned by being the lead choreographer for a dance piece that will be performed in the dance showcase at the end of the semester.

Advanced Dance 3

1 credit, (Art)

Prerequisites: Advanced Dance 2

Advanced Dance 3 is a continuation of skills learned in Advanced Dance 2. This class focuses on developing the strength and flexibility needed to perform more complex dance movements in the disciplines of Ballet, Jazz and Modern dance. There is a focus on performance quality and artistic expression. A more in-depth study of dance composition and improvisational movement is included. Dancers will perform and showcase their student-choreographed pieces in a performance for the school. There will also be an end of semester dance performance.

Dance Composition

1 credit, (Art), Not offered every year

Prerequisites: Intermediate Dance 2

Dance Composition is an exploration of movement and an in depth study of the art of making dances. In this class the students will focus on applying the four basic elements of dance(space, shape, time and energy) to create choreography. Students participating in this class will choreograph a dance piece for the end of the semester showcase.

Dance Pedagogy

1 credit, (Art), Not offered every year

Prerequisites: Intermediate Dance 2

Dance Pedagogy is a class designed to give students the applied knowledge needed to teach dance to young children through adults. Included in the curriculum is an overview of basic anatomy and injury prevention. Students learn how to develop and present all of the aspects of a dance class. The focus will be on learning to teach Creative Movement, Classical Ballet, Jazz, and Modern Dance.

English

English NH State Requirements

Grade 9- English 9 (1 Credit) ~ Grade 10-English 10 (1 Credit)
Grade 11-English 11 (1 Credit) ~ Grade 12-English 12 (1 Credit)

English-9

1 credit, English, required

Prerequisites: English 8

English 9 focuses on a survey of all genres of literature. Students will be expected to approach all in and out of class readings with a critical mind and a willingness to respond in class discussions as well as in written form. There will be a wealth of writing opportunities that will build upon skills from past English classes as well as the acquiring of new skills. Class readings are constructed around a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Homework and independent reading is to be expected. Students need to also be prepared to read, *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. Expected class novels will possibly be: *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and *I Am Malala*.

English-10

1 credit, English, required

Prerequisites: English 9

This course introduces students to more advanced writing and communication skills, using American and International literature as the medium for analysis. Students explore a variety of historical nonfiction and fiction texts, with a major comparative literary project assigned at the midway point. Students also read, respond to, and create several genres during their studies, including drama, poetry, creative nonfiction, and fiction. Writing projects include analytical, argumentative and persuasive essays, as well as creative writing. Arts integration of this course includes theatrical dramatic readings and analysis of major themes in the texts through visual art.

Honors English-10

Prerequisites: English 9, teacher recommendation for Honors level

This course expands on the texts analyzed in English 10, challenging students to evaluate the assigned reading through multiple critical perspectives, as well as compare the text to real historical events and cultural movements in order to come to a more full understanding of the author's purpose. Students explore a variety of historical nonfiction and fiction texts, with a major comparative literary project assigned at the midway point. Students will also read and respond to extension texts to explore important themes across genres. Writing projects include analytical, argumentative and persuasive essays, as well as creative writing. Arts integration of this course includes theatrical dramatic readings and analysis of major themes in the texts through visual art.

English 11

1 credit, English, required

Prerequisites: *English 10*

English 11 will have a strong focus on great works of American Literature as well as important United States documents. Students will be expected to approach said literature with a critical mind and a willingness to respond in class discussions as well as in written form. There will be a wealth of writing and research opportunities that will build upon skills from past English classes as well as the acquiring of new skills. Class readings are constructed around a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Homework and independent reading is to be expected. Some authors that will be featured are: Edgar Allan Poe, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Jonathan Edwards, William Faulkner, Shirley Jackson, and Emily Dickinson. Possible class novels: *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury, *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker, and *the Autobiography of Martin Luther King Jr.* Students in English 11 also read *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller.

Honors English 11

Prerequisite Honors English 10 or English 10 and teacher recommendation

This class includes both literature and writing components. Students will expand their writing skills, to improve vocabulary and communication competency in critical analysis. Students will also demonstrate an understanding of appropriate Standard English conventions including the role of the audience, tone, and purpose. Reading selections include poetry, essays, plays, short stories, and several novels. Writing assignments include a fully documented research paper and the elements of literary criticism. As this is an honors course, it will move at an accelerated pace, and students are expected to have the organizational skills to keep up with the rigorous course load. As such this class requires a year-long commitment by the student.

Students enrolled in Honors English 11 will have the ability to read a variety of fictional and non-fictional works accurately and have a willingness to engage in intelligent discussion, involving active listening and constructive speaking. Students in this class need to have the desire to learn more than the obvious or superficial and the personal and social responsibility to keep up with the individual workload and to contribute meaningfully to group efforts.

This course concentrates on reading, writing, and speaking, and as such students need the willingness to accept criticism from both teachers and peers as well as a strong command of language or the willingness to work hard to achieve such skills.

English 12

1 credit, English, required

Prerequisites: English 11

English 12 will have a strong focus on great works of literature. Students will be expected to approach said literature with a critical mind and a willingness to respond in class discussions as well as in written form. There will be a wealth of writing opportunities that will build upon skills from past English classes as well as the acquiring of new skills. Class readings are constructed around a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Homework and independent reading is to be expected. Some of the said fiction authors are: William Shakespeare, Amy Tan, Sir Arhtur Conan Doyle, Jane Austen, and others. Students in English 12 also have two major projects, a memoir project in the fall and the senior project that is due in late spring. For the memoir project, the mentor text is *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer.

Honors English 12

Prerequisite Honors English 11 or English 11 with teacher recommendation

This course is meant to prepare students for college-level reading and writing. To do this, students will read and analyze texts that are from a variety of literary periods and texts that speak to a variety of experiences. This will allow students to be exposed to new ideas and to build literary analysis skills. Daily and weekly writing should be expected as well as discussing and reflecting in order to build our analytical, communication, and writing skills and in doing so, allow students to explore and challenge the ideas presented in said literary works. This will be accomplished through literature, dramatic works, journaling, Socratic seminars, informal discussions, and formal writing. As such this class requires a year-long commitment by the student.

This course focuses on properly transitioning students from high school success to college and career readiness. Students in this class will embark upon a study of world literature across genres and forms, paying close attention to the types of assignments and expectations they will encounter in the college environment in order to adequately prepare them for their future. Students will also focus on making connections to their world through a series of careful literary analyses and discussions, as well as several essays that carefully examine independently selected texts.

This class will function as an active community of learners. As such, everyone will have a voice that is heard and respected by the entire class. Everyone is required to contribute their thoughts, ideas, work, and goals with the class in order to contribute to the variety of perspectives being studied and to receive feedback to enhance and aid growth throughout the year.

Creative Writing (an English elective)

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

This course consists of a round-table, peer review environment, with lessons in various writing techniques and skills. Students will create a portfolio of work with the end goal of inspiring submission to literary publications if the desire exists. Classes will cover fiction, memoir, poetry, persuasive essays, and a variety of expressive forms traditional with the area of study. Arts integration involves illustrating selected student-generated texts for further dissemination, graphic layouts, and cover art. Part of the course will include a core Writer's Group to support young authors.

Myths & Legends

0.5 credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

One half of semester is Mythology, with a review but not a focus on Greek Myths, the focus will be on other cultures such as Mesopotamian, Egyptian, Norse, and Aztec, among others. Second half of semester is legends such as *The Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, legends surrounding *King Arthur*, and ends with a study of the evolution of Urban Legends. This class is offered for grades 9-12.

Literature and Society(English elective)

0.5 credit

Prerequisites: None

In this course, we will be looking at the ways in which great storytellers have used tales of the high seas to explore deeper truths about the society that they themselves come from. We will be taking a close look at Herman Melville's famous novel *Moby Dick* and discussing the ideas that it had for the American project at that time. We will also be using art, music, performance and *Star Trek*, of all things, to explore how those messages might still have significance to us today.

Comics Media (an English elective)

0.5 credit

Prerequisites: None

Comics have exploded in popularity in recent years, redefining our understanding of both art and literature. Read "Understanding Comics," "MAUS" and other acclaimed graphic novels and short-form comics, analyze the techniques that comics use to convey action, drama and comedy, and use these techniques in making your own short-form comics.

Film Studies

Prerequisites: English 9& 10

This course is offered to only 11th and 12th grade students.

Film Studies is a course intended to familiarize students with the particulars of film history as well as to provide them with a chance to analyze film as a visual art form. This course should appeal to all students who love to watch movies and discuss them. In addition, creative writing will be emphasized in each unit. The course is designed to teach students how to think critically and analytically about literature, film, and literary techniques. Students are expected to maintain an excellent work ethic and to meet the challenge of higher-level thinking. Students need to have developed organizational skills. Students will be expected to analyze the films and not just watch them. There will be one book and/or short story to film comparison and students will be expected to read the required materials.

This course requires a permission slip from parents, as such, it is offered only to 11th and 12th graders.

Regardless of the rating of the film, a parent or guardian must sign a slip for this class giving permission to watch such films as any one of the *Indiana Jones* films, clips from *Psycho*, and/or *Jaws*, among others. A list of films will be provided.

World Language

Spanish 1

1.0 credit

Prerequisites: None

This introductory course is designed to expose students to the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. There is a strong emphasis on vocabulary acquisition, pronunciation, and verb conjugation at this level. Students learn to develop and utilize the Spanish Language in an academic context of understanding, learning about and comparing Language and Culture, and responding to inquiries. In addition, students make connections through world language by engaging in introductory level conversation, providing and obtaining information, expressing feelings and emotions, and exchanging opinions. This course will be instructed utilizing a Multi-modality approach and an Arts Integrated Curriculum.

Spanish 2

1.0 credit

Prerequisites: Spanish 1

This course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 1 to continue in developing proficiency in the four modalities of language learning: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will further develop vocabulary acquisition and verb conjugation as well as emerge in their understanding of, and interpreting spoken and written language. Students will learn to ask and answer simple questions as they learn to communicate about a wide variety of topics. Students refine their skills by making and responding to inquiries. In addition, students learn and utilize new grammatical structures and content. Spanish Culture and History will continue to be explored. This course will be instructed utilizing a Multi-modality approach and an Arts Integrated Curriculum.

Spanish 3

1.0 credit

Prerequisites: Spanish 1 & Spanish 2

This advanced course is designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish 1 and Spanish 2. The course focuses on Spanish conversation and dialogue utilizing practical Spanish and scenes of life narratives. Students will demonstrate proficiency in the four modalities of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will respond orally to prompts. Students will comprehend authentic material and various text and media sources in the Spanish language. Students present information and topics. Spanish Culture and History will continue to be explored through language and open dialogue. Students become independent users and create with the language. This course will be instructed utilizing a Multi-modality approach and an Arts Integrated Curriculum.

Health/Physical Education

NH State Requirements:

Health-0.5 Credits, Physical Education-1.0 Credits

Physical Education

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Students will participate in a variety of fitness activities to improve their personal level of fitness. Physical Education focuses on Movement Skills - fundamental skills or various activities and Physical Fitness - attention to endurance, strength, agility, and flexibility. This course is designed to investigate and apply the basic concepts and principles of physical fitness and other health-related factors. Students will learn to improve their personal level of fitness as well as appreciate and understand the value of Physical Education and its relationship to a healthy, active lifestyle. Emphasis is placed on wellness through experiences in fitness and exercise.

Health

0.5 credit

Prerequisites: None

Students will comprehend concepts related to health promotion and disease prevention, analyze the influence of family, peer, culture, media, technology and other factors on health behaviors, demonstrate the ability to access valid health information, products and services, demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health and avoid or reduce health risks, demonstrate the ability to use decision making skills to enhance health, demonstrate the ability to practice health-enhancing behaviors and avoid or reduce health related risks, and demonstrate the ability to advocate for personal, family and community health. This comprehensive curriculum is geared to enable students to promote a Vape, Tobacco, Alcohol, Marijuana and Other Drug-free lifestyle, along with promoting Total Personal Health and Wellness, Sexual Health, Violence Prevention, Personal Safety and reducing the risks of unintentional injury, Mental Health, Emotional Health, Public Health, Consumer Health, Community and Environmental Health, along with education on Healthy Nutrition and Physical Activity. This course addresses top adolescent priority risk behavior topics while educating students on self advocacy in order to make healthy choices for their overall health. Students will be instructed in balancing Physical, Mental, Social and Emotional Health. Emphasis is placed on The Health Skills. The overall goal for this course is to help enable students to make healthy decisions, learn how to refuse and make educated choices that have Healthy Behavioral Outcomes.

Mathematics

Math Requirement: 3 Full Credits of Math (must include Algebra 1)

Pre-Algebra

1 credit

This course will be a blend of Pre-algebra and Algebra 1. The first half of Part 1 is dedicated to strengthening the skills learned in Pre-Algebra. Topics could include Real Numbers, Algebraic Expressions & Equations, Ratios, some Geometry, Time will also be spent on strengthening arithmetic skills (adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing), especially working with fractions and decimals. The second half of Part 1 will dive into Algebra 1. Algebra 1 provides an opportunity for students to practice logical and abstract reasoning skills. Part 2 will include a review of Part 1 and the rest of Algebra 1. Topics include: working with variables, functions, graphing, inequalities, equation solving, and number systems. Emphasis is placed on the application of skills.

Algebra 1

1 credit

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or 8th Grade Math

In the transition from arithmetic to algebra, the attention shifts from arithmetic operations to use of the properties of these operations. Algebra I is a challenging course that lays the foundation needed for subsequent courses in math and science. This course provides an opportunity for students to practice logical and abstract reasoning skills. Topics include: working with variables, functions, graphing, inequalities, equation solving, and number systems. Emphasis is placed on the application of skills.

Geometry

1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

The Geometry course includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, and trigonometry. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument.

Algebra 2

1 credit

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 & Geometry

This course is designed to build on algebraic and geometric concepts. It develops advanced algebra skills such as systems of equations, advanced polynomials, imaginary and complex numbers, quadratics, and concepts and includes the study of trigonometric functions. The course also includes operations with functions; the study of polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions and their graphs; sequences and variation.

Pre-Calculus

1 Credits

Prerequisites: Successful Completion of Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation

Pre-Calculus is a course that extends and integrates the learning from both Geometry and Algebra 2 courses. It provides an in-depth, rigorous study of functions and their properties. Functions to investigate include Linear, Quadratic, Polynomial, Rational, Radical, Piece-wise, Exponential, Logarithmic, and Trigonometric. Representations and analysis of these topics will occur numerically, algebraically, and/or graphically (both with & without technology). Additional topics to be covered as time permits include Vectors, Law of Sines & Cosines, Polar Coordinate System, Parametric Equations, Analytic Geometry, and Sequences & Series.

Consumer Math/Personal Finance

1 Credits

Prerequisites: 3 math credits/Seniors only

This course teaches financial literacy. Topics include: setting financial goals, purchasing a car, buying a home, budgeting, paying bills, credit, debt, taxes, banking, interest, insurance, saving and investing. Development of financial literacy skills can help provide the basis for responsible citizenship and career success. Students learn skills in creating budgets, developing long-term financial plans to meet their goals, and making responsible choices about income and expenses.

Music Department

Intro to Music

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

Intro to Music is designed for students with little to no formal training in music. This course provides a general introduction to many different aspects of music, including active listening, reading music, and basic singing/instrumental techniques. Students will gain a greater appreciation for music and improve upon their own capabilities in an accepting, constructive environment.

History of Rock & Roll

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey of 20th and 21st century American popular music, focusing specifically on the music that shaped, defined, and emerged from rock and roll. Students will discuss musical events from social, historical, and technological perspectives and actively listen to recordings. Classwork will be project-based, and class participation is essential.

World of Music

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

This course is a survey of traditional and contemporary music traditions from around the world. We will explore rhythmic and pitch traditions, instruments, and the cultural significance of music from a large variety of cultures. Emphasis will be put on learning from culture bearers.

Music Theory

0.5 credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: Intro. To Music (or teacher's permission)

Music Theory will continue the exploration of the construction of music covered in Intro. To Music. Topics will include interval identification, scale structure, musical form, and chord construction, as well as ear-training and sight-singing exercises. Long-term assignments will include composition and transcription assignments.

Music Business

0.5 credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: Completion of an introductory music class (or teacher's permission)

This course will provide students with an introduction to the many facets of music business and technology. Topics will include music and sound in film and video games, music recording, live audio, music production history and technology, digital music composition, and copyright law. This course is an excellent choice for students who are considering a future career in music related fields, or who would like to understand more about the music and sound industry's influence on our daily lives.

Chorus

0.5 Credit (1 Credit if taken for the full year)

Prerequisites: None

Through membership in the GSAA Chorus, students will better themselves as musicians, choristers, and vocal health experts. Areas of focus will include vocal technique, the difference between solo and ensemble singing, music literacy, and singing in foreign languages. Our repertoire includes music from a diverse group of genres, including but not limited to spirituals, popular music, art music, and musical theater. Students in this class will participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Instrumental Ensemble

0.5 Credit (1 Credit if taken for the full year)

Prerequisite: Students must have the ability to read traditional music notation.

Through membership in the GSAA Instrumental Ensemble, students will better themselves as musicians, bandmates, and masters of their instruments. Areas of focus will include ensemble technique, music literacy, and stylistic accuracy. We will study music from a diverse group of genres, including but not limited to popular music, folk music, and both traditional and contemporary art music. This ensemble is a good match for students who play traditional band or orchestra instruments, but any instrument will be considered. Students in this class will participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Rock Ensemble

0.5 Credit (1 Credit if taken for the full year)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in either Chorus or Instrumental Ensemble

Through membership in the GSAA Rock Ensemble, students will better themselves as musicians, collaborators, and professionals. Areas of focus will include choosing repertoire in specific situations, arranging music, self-sufficiency in live sound, and performance. This class is not an open jam session, but rather an academic course in which students will learn the intricacies of running an independent rehearsal and performance. This ensemble is best suited for musicians who play a traditional rock band instrument or sing, but any instrument will be considered with teacher approval. Students in this class will participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Acoustic Guitar and Ukulele Ensemble

0.5 Credit (1 Credit if taken for the full year)

Prerequisite: Prior completion of Guitar or Ukulele (or teacher's permission)

Through membership in the Acoustic Guitar and Ukulele Ensemble, students will continue developing their skills and technique in an ensemble setting. Music selections may require reading chords, standard music notation, or TAB, and involve a variety of strumming and fingerstyle techniques. Music selections will cross a variety of genres and styles. This ensemble is best suited for musicians who play acoustic guitar or ukulele. Students in this class will participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Ukulele

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

This course is a beginner-level class for students interested in learning the concert ukulele. Students will learn proper technique, how to play chords and melodies, and how to read ukulele notation. Students may either bring their own ukulele to class or borrow one from the school. This course fulfills the introductory music prerequisite for more advanced music courses. Students in this class may participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Guitar

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

This course is a beginner-level class for students interested in learning the guitar. Students will learn proper technique, how to play chords and melodies, and how to read guitar notation. Students may either bring their own acoustic guitar to class or borrow one from the school. This course fulfills the introductory music prerequisite for more advanced music courses. Students in this class may participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Percussion

0.5 Credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisite: None

This course is a beginner-level class for students interested in learning percussion. Students will learn proper technique for both pitched and unpitched percussion instruments, body percussion, creative uses of recycled and found instruments, rhythms from around the world, and how to understand percussion notation methods. This course fulfills the introductory music prerequisite for more advanced music courses. Students in this class may participate in a semester-ending music showcase.

Science

NH State Science Requirements

9th- Physical Science (1 Credit), 10th- Biology (1 Credit)

Integrated Physical Science

1 credit, Science, required

Grade 9 (typically)

Prerequisites: None

Physical Science is designed to serve as a foundation for other high school courses, especially chemistry and physics. Chemistry units include composition and classification of matter, history of atomic structure up to the present day model, learning the periodic table to include, but not limited to: all chemical symbols, patterns, trends and isotopes, chemical bonding, compound naming, and chemical reactions. Physics units include Newton's 3 laws of motion, forces, scientific definitions of work and power, momentum, conservation and conversions of energy, relationships between electricity and magnetism, and wave phenomena and behavior (including characteristics and calculations) including electromagnetic and sound waves.

Because experimentation is the basis of science, laboratory demonstrations and investigations are an integral part of this course. Students should be prepared to conduct projects each quarter and write a formal lab report. Instruction centers around inquiry-based learning that is incorporated into class activities. Learning activities include teacher-lead instruction, videos, readings, individual work, project-based learning, and lab exercises.

Biology

1 credit, Science, required

Grade 10 (typically)

Prerequisites: None

This course will cover: interrelationships of living things, levels of biological organization, cellular biology, biochemistry, genetics, and evolution. Learning activities include lecture, videos, discussions, independent work, project-based learning, and laboratory exercises. There will be a heavy emphasis on independent work and research in order to achieve the autonomy expected of upper-level students. Assessments include: tests, quizzes, and projects. This course is designed as a college preparatory class, and students are expected to participate in all activities and actively engage and ask questions during teacher-led lectures.

Chemistry

1 credit, Science

Grade 11 (typically)

Prerequisites: Successful Completion of Integrated and Biology and Algebra

This course will cover: dimensional analysis, atomic structure and the mole, nuclear chemistry, light and electron configuration, the periodic table and periodic trends, bonding, nomenclature, percent composition, molecular formulas, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, states of matter, gas laws, thermochemistry, and acids and bases. Students will learn via a combination of lecture, discussions, independent work, laboratory work, and projects. Students' knowledge will be assessed in a variety of ways including: tests, quizzes, and projects. Students should leave the course with a general understanding of the properties of matter, its structure and composition, how it is categorized, how it interacts, the Atomic Theory throughout history, and the signs and causes of chemical reactions.

Environmental Science

0.5 credit, Grades 11 & 12

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to cover: Earth's systems and resources, the living world, populations, land and water use, energy resources and consumption, pollution, global change, and environmental research. Learning activities will include lecture, videos, discussions, independent work, project-based learning, and laboratory exercises. There will be a heavy emphasis on independent work and research in order to achieve the autonomy expected of upper-level students. Assessments include: tests, quizzes, and projects. This course is designed as a college preparatory class, and students are expected to participate in all activities and actively engage and ask questions during teacher-led lectures.

Social Studies

Social Studies NH State Requirements is 3.0

Geography

0.5 credit, Grade 9

Prerequisites: None

World Geography is the study of the world's peoples, places, and environments, with a focus on world regions. Particular emphasis is placed on students' understanding and applying geographic concepts and skills to their daily lives. In this course, students will use geographic resources, inquiry, research, and technology skills to ask and answer geographic questions for an in-depth study of geography.

This Geography course will examine a broad range of geographical perspectives covering all of the major regions of the world. Each region will be reviewed in a similar structure in order for students to more clearly see the similarities and differences between each region.

Western Civilization

0.5 credit, Grade 9

Prerequisites: None

Western Civilization is the study of developments which have shaped history and affected modern political, economic and social systems. The emphasis will be on the development of civilization and the evolution of modern nations from a Western perspective. This course introduces western civilization from prehistory to the early modern era. Topics include ancient Greece, Rome, and Christian institutions of the Middle Ages and the emergence of national monarchies in western Europe. Upon completion, students should be able to analyze significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in early western civilization.

Civics

0.5 credit, Grade 10

Prerequisites: None

This course is designed to give students an understanding of civic ideals and practices that are important in a representative participatory democracy. It is important to understand the privileges and responsibilities of our citizenship and by combining the study of Civics and Political Science we can better demonstrate those goals. Students will participate in a debate, discussing representative democracy at the local(NH), state(NH) and federal levels, as well as other major competitive forms of government today existing in the world today. Print and media will be utilized together with presentations and guest speakers as part of the course. Essays, quizzes, participation, exercises, and homework will be the primary criteria for knowledge assessment and grading.

Economics

0.5 credit, Grade 10

Prerequisites: None

This course will instruct students on the fundamentals of macro and microeconomics affecting the world, national and local economies. Special focus includes personal financial stability, with lessons in banking, credit, budgeting, and small business management. Coursework includes simulation models, exercises, participation, and discussion. Project-based demonstration of knowledge can include artistic interpretations, 2-D, and 3-D modeling, and student suggested modes of knowledge dissemination. quizzes, participation, exercises, and homework will be the primary criteria for knowledge assessment and grading.

US History

1 credit, Grade 11

Prerequisites: None

This US History course begins by examining the pre-colonial aspects of the American landscape including NorthAmerican, specifically NH, and South American explorers. The course progresses through colonization and the development of the American identity through peacetime and conflict. Students focus on not only the “what happened,” but also the “why it happened,” and “what happened next?” This course will dive into NH’s history in these specific time periods. The course's arts integration includes visual art projects such as period research into art styles, music, and Theatre expression when possible.

Historical Literature

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

Our ancient young predecessors, sitting by candlelight or lamplight, reading history, actually learned history through literature. There simply was no other better way to study history—and bring history to life. History has effectively been taught through literature since ancient times. Only in the last century have schools gone away from this method of teaching to use textbooks. This course studies both history and literature. Exchanging literature—biographies, classical works, even historical fiction, for the history textbook not only restores this discipline to its historic roots, but also reinvigorates it with its inherent passion, human interest, and wonder. A student reading *Johnny Tremain* for his/her studies of the American Revolution will learn far more about the essence of that struggle than even the most colorful textbook could ever impart.

Thus, the goal of this course is to learn and understand targeted periods of US and World History through a number of readings in historical fiction and historical nonfiction.

Sociology

0.5 credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

As part of the American Psychological Association's (APA) approved course for High School, this part of the course includes the study of human behavior by analyzing social structures (the patterned ways that people interact in social relationships). Students will first learn the four basic sociological perspectives and consider questions about sociological research and methods. The course then focuses on understanding social structures like culture, status, groups and how those structures are formed through socialization. Many of the concepts of the course are explained using modern era readings and video. Students will have an opportunity to consider how sociological concepts and perspectives apply to their own lives.

Psychology

0.5 credit, Not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

This additional content of the APA course discusses different aspects of human personality, basis of behavior, emotion, consciousness, disorders, with emphasis on the analysis of human behavior and relationships. During the first half of the semester, theories of learning and personality development will be presented so that students may gain greater self-awareness and a better understanding of others. In the second half of the semester, the class will focus on troubled personalities, psychological disorders, and related psychosocial issues. Essays, quizzes, participation, exercises, and homework will be the primary criteria for knowledge assessment and grading.

Theatre Arts

Intro to Theatre

0.5 credit, *Prerequisites: None*

This is a broadly focused and essential course for students to explore the foundational skills of theatre arts across all facets of the discipline. Our emphasis will be on community-building, developing confidence and self-esteem in the context of performance, cultivating presence in front of an audience, learning traditional warm-up procedures, establishing the fundamentals of acting, and studying essential theatrical terminology.

Students will gain exposure to a variety of types of theatre, as well as a taste of every sort of role and job in the theatrical world. The course prepares all students to study the craft of theatre in GSAA's model and methodology.

Acting, vocal technique, writing for performance, script reading and analysis, how to review theatre, theatre etiquette, and basic theatre history are just some of the topics we will cover in this course. This class is open to all GSAA students, and is the prerequisite for the majority of our second tier theatre classes.

Stage Craft and Technical Theatre

0.5 credit,

Prerequisites: None

For those more interested in the behind the scenes aspect of theatre, this is the course for you. Learn how we make the magic happen. In this introductory course, you will learn the basics of all things technical theatre. Set building, lighting, prop making, sound design, costuming, and stage management will all be covered. No experience needed, as we will move at a pace that is comfortable for even the most novice of technical practitioners.

This course is the prerequisite for Theatre Design.

Historical Theatre

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: None (Intro to Theatre Recommended)

This course will cover a variety of theatrical time periods and art movements from the birth of theatre in ancient Greece up to the modern day. Each unit will involve reading a great play of the era, discussions on the social/cultural landscape, and examination on why the themes and ideas of these plays still resonate today. Some of the styles we will explore include Classic Greek, English Renaissance, Japanese Noh and Kabuki, Melodrama, and Realism. Along the way, students will respond to the plays and the periods, with a heavy emphasis on Aristotle's *Poetics*. There are four major projects, in which the students will have a variety of options to create creative and critical examinations of the plays we have read. No theatrical experience needed, just a passion for learning, and an open mind ready to have healthy discussion on philosophical topics.

History of Musical Theatre

0.5 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: None (Intro to Theatre recommended)

What is the only true American art form? Musical theatre! This class covers the beginnings of the American musical, with minstrel songs and the age of vaudeville, up to today's blockbuster Broadway hits. We will explore American culture and how each era of our history has shaped theatre and the role the musical has played in theater's survival. Broadway business, American history, and literature will be covered, in addition to a deep dive into some of the most prolific composers, lyricists, directors, choreographers, and performers from the Broadway stage.

Art of Acting

.05 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre

In this advanced level class, students will explore and begin their mastery of the art of acting. This double period course places heavy emphasis on technique, vocal skill, scene analysis, and self-reflection. The philosophies of Stanislavsky, Meisner, Hagen, Spolin, Chekov and Brecht will all be touched upon. Students will perform a variety of scenes and monologues in order to stretch and expand their repertoire of performance prowess. As the primary focus of the course is growth, this is a class that can be taken multiple times by a student, with instructor permission. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

This class is a requirement for both Advanced Scene Study and Acting for Musical Theatre.

Playwriting

0.5 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre

In this writing intensive class, students will learn how to structure and create dramatic works. Exploring where ideas come from, developing dialog, creating three-dimensional characters, and proper formatting are only a few of the areas we will discuss. No writing experience required, but students must have taken Introduction to Theatre in order to have a base-understanding of the benefits and limitations of the stage. This class can be taken multiple times for credit - with alternative, more advanced assignments for repeaters.

Special Topics

0.5 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre

This advanced level theatre course will be different every time. At the start of the semester, students will be presented with a number of theatrical topics of which they will have the opportunity to explore. Once deciding upon four areas of interest, the class will dive each of these in challenging yet rewarding units. Possible topics include, but are not limited to: Clowning and Physical Comedy, Shakespeare/Classical performing, Stage Combat, Directing, Stage Management, Acting for the Camera, puppetry, high style performing, dramatic improvisation. This class can be taken multiple times for credit. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Theatre Design

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: Stage Craft and Technical Theatre

Students will learn what it takes to be a designer in the theatrical world. Working with a variety of plays, this class will cover the major areas of design - sets, lights, and costumes, while also dabbling in sound, makeup, and other disciplines. After covering the basics of the principles and elements of design, each student will be taught the creative process in how one goes from concept to creation. Topics include how to read a play from a designer's perspective, communicating your ideas, the collaborative process, and presentation skills. This advanced class is for those with a passion for producing artistic expression. While the only true prerequisite for this course is Stage Craft and Technical Theatre, students with experience in the visual arts will excel in this class.

Improv

0.5 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre

Learn creative thinking, spontaneousness, ensemble work, and so much more in Improv. Class hopes to not only examine both short and long form improv comedy, but also devised theatre, character-driven improv rehearsal techniques, and so much more. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Acting for Musical Theatre

1.0 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: Art of Acting

What makes acting in a musical unique? What are the specific challenges and characteristics of performing through song? This class will cover physical, vocal, dance, and acting techniques for the world of musical theatre. A variety of genres and styles will be explored, as students will build not only a portfolio of skills, but also a personalized repertoire of audition material. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Advanced Scene Study

1.0 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: Art of Acting

This student-driven course will further develop the acting skills beyond those touched upon in previous courses. Participants will be given freedom to choose from a variety of scene styles, and will be placed into unique challenges to focus on how they can become a stronger actor and performer. Independent rehearsal techniques will be emphasized, and the goal will always be to test the students skills and abilities to be stretched in new ways. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Advanced Improv: Devised Theatre

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: Improv

With a focus on the works of Viola Spolin's *Improv for Theatre*, and Anne Bogart's *Viewpoints* techniques, students will learn how to create fully realized theatrical productions that start without a script. Each student will be trained in heavily physical work that will change the way they experience the world. This class will challenge, test, and push students to their limits. Recommended only for those who are truly dedicated to becoming high level artists with incredible focus. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Don't Fear Shakespeare

0.5 credit,

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre (Art of Acting Recommended)

In this class, students will explore the Bard's greatest works, and learn how to master performing in verse. With the primary emphasis on acting, both comedy and drama will get examined, with each student ultimately performing a fully developed scene and a monologue from a play of their choice. Due to the skills covered, this will be a heavily physical class and movement attire will be worn.

Independent Study in Theatre

0.5 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre, Art of Acting, Students with 4+ theatre classes, Instructor approval

For students who have a true passion for a specific area in the dramatic arts, an independent study in any theatrical discipline can be developed. The instructor will work with each student to create an individualized learning plan which will both challenge and stimulate the student. With theatre being the collaborative art, it is hoped that multiple students with different independent studies can work together to create an advanced theatrical experience.

Independent Study in Theatre - Let's Make Theatre

1 credit, offered every other year

Prerequisites: Intro to Theatre, Art of Acting, Students with 4+ theatre classes, Instructor approval

In this class, students will work together to fully produce a one-act play. The semester will be spent choosing a play, raising funds, purchasing the rights, assigning production roles (director, designers, etc) as well as actors, and rehearsing the play. The instructor will be providing more of a mentorship role than direct instruction. Students' grades will be based on participation, meeting project deadlines, and journals, as well as performances.

Visual Arts

Fundamentals of Art

0.5 credit

Prerequisites: None

Students will experiment with various media and techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional artworks as they explore the significance and the application of the elements of art and principles of design. These works may be in the form of drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, assemblage, and sculpture. Media may include but is not limited to graphite, charcoal, acrylics, inks, oils, clay, papier-mâché, wire and found objects. Students will develop and refine technical skills as they work toward the development of their own personal artistic style and voice as they consider influencing factors of personal, multi-cultural and historical significance. As students participate in the critique process, they will use visual art vocabulary to analyze and communicate the artistic implications and distinctiveness of their own artwork and that of their peers.

Advanced Studio: Personal Voice

1 credit

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art or equivalent as approved by the instructor

This course will challenge students to develop and express their individual artistic voice through various two dimensional or three-dimensional artworks. Over the course of the semester, students will work towards the development of an overall cohesive theme for the body of work created in this class.

This course will provide the opportunity for focused research, conceptualization, and application in both the student's choice of subject matter and media of interest. Media may include but is not limited to: drawing, painting, ceramics, sculpture, photography, or video. Students will participate in project critiques to aid in the development of personal art making skill and style with a focus on presentation, artist statements, and portfolio development.

Ceramics One

1 credit

Prerequisites: None

Ceramics one is designed for students who have an interest in working with clay and gives students experiences in making functional as well as sculptural pieces using a variety of techniques.

Students will create ceramic pieces through hand building techniques including pinch, coil, and slab. As students experiment with personal designs, they will explore historical and cultural connections, work individually and collaboratively and reflect on artistic outcomes through the critique of their own work as well as that of their peers.

Ceramics Two

1 credit

Prerequisite: Ceramics One or equivalent as approved by instructor

Ceramics two is an advanced studio course designed to expand upon the skills and ideas gained in ceramics one. Students will explore a variety of ceramic techniques designed to refine hand building skills and experiment with wheel throwing skills through the exploration of more complex and conceptual forms.

As in ceramics one, students will experiment with personal designs, work individually and collaboratively and reflect on artistic outcomes through the critique of their own work as well as that of their peers.

House Design

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Art or equivalent as approved by the instructor

This course will challenge students to explore the elements of art and the principles of design to aid in the development of the creative process. Students will translate two-dimensional architectural plans into three-dimensional form while considering the relationship of design elements and the impact they have on aesthetic quality. Students will be required to employ critical thinking and problem-solving skills as they visualize and construct a ¼ inch scale model of a home from their individual design schemes. As students examine the interconnectedness of the arts throughout social and cultural perspectives, they will gain an enriched artistic understanding and visual awareness.

Art History: Impressionism through Contemporary Art

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisites: None

An introduction to international developments in modern and contemporary art from the 1860's to the present. This course provides students with a knowledge base to understand the visual arts as related to Modern and Contemporary Art. Discussion is centered on world art of the twentieth century, including Modernism to Postmodernism. Students explore the forms, meanings, and purposes of art in this introductory course. Consideration is given to various media, techniques, styles, and content within historical and cultural contexts.

Drawing & Painting

1 credit

Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Art and Advanced Studio: Personal Voice

Students will demonstrate proficiency in the conceptual development of content in drawing and painting to create self-directed or collaborative 2-D artwork suitable for inclusion in a portfolio. Students will produce works that show evidence of developing craftsmanship and quality in composition through the consideration and application of the elements of art and principles of design. Through the critique process, students will evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers with the goal of refining and improving their artistic skills. As students engage in a focused investigation of traditional techniques, historical and cultural models, and individual expressive goals, they will begin to develop their individual and personal artistic style.

Introduction to Sculpture

1 credit

Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Art

A beginning sculpture course that encourages exploration of three-dimensional form using a variety of materials, methods and techniques. Concentration is given to historical, cultural and aesthetic contexts that influence sculpture as an art form with an emphasis on the cultivation of individual creative expression. Lessons are designed to initiate creative development aimed at gaining a fluency in the composition, observation, and analysis of sculptural form.

A broad range of both traditional and non-traditional materials will be used throughout the course that may include: wood, metal, plaster, clay and found objects; some of which may be the responsibility of the student to acquire.

Digital Art

0.5 credit

Prerequisites: Fundamentals of Art or equivalent approved by instructor

This semester long course introduces students to contemporary media as an extension of the creative process. Students will explore the application of the elements of art and principles of design while using various technology platforms as media in artmaking. Through lecture, research and assigned projects, students will consider cultural and historical implications on various art movements and compare this understanding with contemporary art influences. They will synthesize this understanding into their own artmaking opportunities using technology as a vehicle to bridge the gap between old and new methods. The course culminates into a survey of professional career opportunities for digital artmaking.

Portfolio Design & Presentation

0.5 credit, not offered every year

Prerequisite: Advanced Studio: Personal Voice or equivalent as approved by the instructor

This course provides students with an opportunity to construct both a digital and a physical portfolio that showcases their success and growth as artists. Students will explore methods to select, arrange and display examples of their artwork that demonstrate an understanding and execution of the elements of art and principles of design.

Attention is given toward preparation for a portfolio review for college and/or employment opportunities.

Applied Arts

Sewing Courses

Introduction to Sewing (previously names Sewing)

0.5 credit, elective

Prerequisite: None

In Introduction to Sewing, students will learn the basics of sewing, from hand to machine, including various stitches and seam finishes. Students will build a solid sewing foundation and will complete at least 10 sewing projects. Students will build the knowledge and the confidence needed to continue a study in sewing.

Fabric Crafting

0.5 credit, elective

Prerequisite: None

In Fabric Crafting, students will explore hand stitching, clothing embellishment, embroidery and more. The class will be different every time based on class interests and abilities. Students may be asked to bring in old cloths to practice their newfound skills on.

Intermediate Sewing *(previously named Advanced Sewing)*

0.5 credit, elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Sewing

In Intermediate Sewing, students will build on the skills learned in the Introduction to Sewing class. The projects completed in this class will be more complex and will take longer to complete. Students will leave this class knowing how to make aprons, tote bags, quilts, and more.

Garment Making, Costuming, & Accessories

1.0 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Sewing, Recommendation: Intermediate or Advanced Sewing

In Garment Making, Costuming, & Accessories, students will build on the skills learned in the Introduction to Sewing class. Students will learn how to read a garment pattern, how to ensure the use of the right materials for the job, and a basic knowledge of how to create garments, such as shirts, pants and skirts from scratch. Students enrolled in this course will work with the Theater Department on required costumes for upcoming shows.

Modern Quilting & Applique

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Sewing and teacher approval

In Modern Quilting & Applique, students will build on the skills learned in the Introduction to Sewing class. Students will learn how to create a variety of different quilting blocks and techniques, how to ensure the use of the right materials for the job, and a basic knowledge of how to create beautiful quilts from scratch.

Advanced Sewing Studio

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Sewing, Intermediate or Advanced Sewing, and teacher approval

Advanced Sewing Studio is for the driven, independent sewing student that has fully explored the existing sewing curriculum and wishes to continue to expand their knowledge base. Students will create projects of their own choice and sew at their own pace. Students must apply to the sewing instructor for entrance. Acceptance will center around the student's performance in past sewing classes, demonstration of skill, enthusiasm, ability to self motivate, and work well independently.

Photography & Design Courses

Introduction to Digital Photography

0.5 credit, elective

Prerequisite: None,

This course uses a dSLR camera to build basic skills in students who have an interest in photography, but no prior experience. Using a combination of lecture, demonstration, and hands-on exercises, this course will explore the basic photographic techniques and artistic concerns involved in making photographs. These include camera handling, composition, effective use of light, file management, and developing a photographic vision. Students also learn to examine images critically through weekly critiques. If a student owns a dSLR, they are welcome to bring their own.

Digital Photo Editing

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Photography, Any type of Camera

This course introduces students to the importance of a digital photography workflow. Many aspects of the software will be discussed, including required hardware, image capture, file formats, color space, and output management. The class includes detailed demonstrations, hands-on exercises, and constructive critiques to assist in developing the necessary skills for a complete digital photography workflow, as well as techniques for photo editing and retouching.

Intermediate Digital Photography

0.5 credit, elective

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Photography

This intermediate level course is designed to expand the knowledge and abilities of motivated students who have completed Introduction to Digital Photography. Basic photographic and post-processing skills learned will be refined as students work to develop a personal photographic vision, expand their existing portfolio, and refine their niche.

Lighting and Portraiture

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Photography & Intermediate Digital Photography

In this advanced level photography course, students will build on knowledge from previous classes to help capture different styles of portraiture. Students will also learn about important posing techniques for successful portraits. This course introduces a range of techniques including studio and lifestyle portraiture. Through studio and location shoots, students will begin to understand the creative approaches necessary for taking great portraits. Students will direct and photograph models while exploring portrait composition, posing techniques and lighting set-ups. Classes will also include an examination and discussion of the masters in the field of portrait photography, as well as critiques of student work.

Documentary, Photojournalism & Event Photography

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Photography & Intermediate Digital Photography

In this advanced level photography course, students will explore the art of storytelling through photography. We will work through shooting for stories, photo essays, and capturing events. Participate in an advanced exploration of the concepts of narrative and linear vs. non-linear imagery. With an emphasis on storytelling through creative imagery, develop a digital narrative showcasing advanced techniques in camerawork, lighting, and other pre- and post-production skills.

Exploring Photography Genres

0.5 credit, elective (not offered every year)

Prerequisite: Introduction to Digital Photography & Intermediate Digital Photography

This advanced level photography course will be different every time. After briefly reviewing a number of photography genres, students will decide as a group which genres will be explored in the selected units. A selection of possible topics could include: Portraiture, Landscape, Still Life, Abstract, Macro, Documentary, Product/Commercial, Street Shots, Interior, Astrophotography, or Time Lapse Photography. Students will participate in project critiques to aid in the development of photographic skill and style with a focus on presentation, artist statements, and portfolio development. This class can be taken multiple times for credit.