

NEW VISTA HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

This book compiles virtually all the courses that have been offered since New Vista High School opened its doors in the fall of 1993.

**Some of these courses will never be offered again;
some are offered every year;
new courses will continue to be added as the school continues to grow.**

During any given year, only some of these courses are available to students.

**For information about current course offerings,
please contact the school at 720-561-8700.**

All courses in academic areas are aligned with Boulder Valley School District and State of Colorado Content Standards.

Volume XVI

Updated 11/11

Table of Contents

Applied Technology.....	3
Arts.....	7
Interpersonal.....	15
Intrapersonal.....	16
Language Arts.....	19
Mathematics.....	41
Science.....	44
Social Studies.....	51
World Languages.....	65

APPLIED TECHNOLOGY

Advertising Design

This introduction to graphic design and advertising will explore various advertising media and the history of modern advertising. We will incorporate all types of media and techniques into both print and video designs. This course is for students interested in advertising who have intermediate skills in at least one of the following: drawing, painting, photography, and/or video.

Basic Black and White Photography and Journal Making

In this class we will learn the basics of photography as an art form. We will explore camera use, darkroom procedure, composition, seeing the world in a fresh way, important photographers, studio lighting, and many other pertinent topics. We will also experiment with our photographs by manipulating them with color, text, collage, etc, in a journal format. Sepia toning, hand coloring, solarization, and infrared film are some of the techniques we will explore.

Bicycle Adventures and the Environment

In this class you will learn to use, repair and appreciate the bicycle and the role it can play in society. The class will include weekly rides as well as time in the shop learning the parts and tools necessary to keep the wheels rolling.

Black & White Photography: Beginning

This course is an introduction to black and white photography. Topics to be covered include camera handling, exposure, processing and printing film. We will study the history of current trends and career options in photography through slide talks, class discussions and guest presentations. Students will need to own a 35mm, single-lens reflex camera or rent one from NVHS. Written projects are required.

Black & White Photography: Intermediate/Advanced

As a follow up to Basic Black and White Photography, topics in this course will include a study of exposure systems such as the Zone System, studio lighting techniques, flash photography, and unusual printing methods such as solarization. Students will complete and present a final portfolio of their work.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography

Black and White Photography: Portraiture

Using color slides, students will develop their ability to capture the spirit of a person in their photographs.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography or permission of the instructor. (Also Art)

Black and White Photography: Social Documentary

This course is an introduction to documentary/photojournalism. Students will explore the use of photography as a means of communication by combining text with images to document a subject of their choice. We will look at the current trends and career opportunities in the field through group discussions, guest presentations and slide talks.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography

Choreography

This class is for dancers of all levels and styles who want to make dances and develop the craft of doing so. The application of compositional elements including Space, design, form, energy, and time for individual and group projects will support a deeper artistic effort. In addition, the class will address the art and act of non-verbal communication through dance.

Color Slide Photography

Students with a background in black and white photography will learn about adding color to their palette of techniques. Developing will be done by commercial enterprises.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography

Computer Art

In this course students will use Painter 3, Superpaint and PhotoShop to generate and manipulate digital pictures. The product will be added to New Vista's Digital Art Website. Students will be able to have a few choice images printed out toward the end of the quarter.

Digital Imaging

Students learn to use Adobe Photoshop to manipulate images from a wide range of sources. The emphasis is on composition, color, and effective communication.

Documentary Photography: Digital

This class will explore how images and text are combined to communicate a message. Topics will include the making of powerful photographs and working with subjects. You'll be using digital cameras, Photoshop, the internet, and other sources to create your own social documentary projects that include photographs and narrative. One assignment, "A Day in My Life", will involve exchanging photos by email with students at a high school in Armenia! Social Studies credit is also available.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography or photography experience without darkroom techniques.

Enameling

In this class students learn the techniques of enameling small jewelry pieces.

Flute Making

Students will learn how to fabricate a traditional southwestern flute. Topics to be covered include history and use of the flute, planning, design, fabrication and finishing, and machine and hand tool safety and usage. Each student is required to cover the cost of his/her flute. Written project required.

Introduction to Computer Applications

We will work with a variety of computer programs in order to improve our computer skills and to acquire a valuable cybernetic toolkit. The primary programs used will be: Microsoft Word, Microsoft PowerPoint, Mavis Beacon (typing tutor), Netscape (and various search engines). All students will execute a least one multi-media project.

Jewelry – Metal Smithing

This class is an introduction to metal smithing. Working with various metals and stone, we will be covering the cutting, shaping, bending and finishing of jewelry pieces. The emphasis will be on self-expression using the techniques of metal working. Topics include the use of machines and hand tools, safety, and basic fabrication and soldering techniques in copper, brass and silver.

Lost Voice of the 19th Century

In this course, students will get a chance to study some under-represented authors and poets of the 19th century. The class will attempt to create on-line resources for those who wish to study some of these lost voices. The class will incorporate technology and strive to push students to become more proficient with computers, software, and the internet. (Also Language Arts)

Mask Making

This course will include a brief history of masks and mask-making. The students will have the opportunity to explore different cultures and their individual styles of masks and their meanings. Students will use this information as a reference to create their own masks out of various materials, such as clay, leather and paper maché. (Also Art)

Mixed Photographic Media

In this course students will incorporate found objects: wood, metal, papers, etc to make photographic prints on any surface using liquid emulsion. The surface and the object itself become part of the artwork. "Liquid Light" is where photography meets sculpture.

The lab fee will cover materials such as liquid emulsion, watercolor paper and chemicals for development. Printing surfaces will be supplied by the student as part of their own creative expression.

Prerequisite: Basic Black and White Photography

1000 Images Printmaking

In this class we will learn the different methods of replicating drawings, photographs, and other images. Instead of fusing the computer printer and the copy machine, we will focus on age old printing techniques such as glass, lino-cuts, wood-cuts, and silk screen. Our media will be paper, fabrics (t-shirts, pants, canvas, etc.), and wood. There is a \$20 materials fee.

Perspective Drawing

This is a basic drawing class to learn how to create a sense of depth in your drawings. The students will be creating drawings using one-point perspective and two-point perspective. Most of the class will be spent creating objects (tables, chairs, etc.), buildings and landscapes in three dimensions. Students will have a sketchbook and will be required to do daily assignments and homework. An inexpensive mechanical pencil will be required. (Also Art)

Research Strategies

This class is a web-based course that provides beginning students with a conceptual and practical exploration of the wide variety of information technologies available to students to meet research needs. This course will immerse students in a laboratory environment where information technology exists as a means to a much larger end. This is a unique opportunity to prepare for the demands of high school and college research work.

Textile Survey Course

In this class students will have the opportunity to taste a variety of textile arts such as basketry, surface design, felting, and weaving.

Video and Three Days in Spring

Students will spend the quarter learning the techniques of video production in order to focus on producing public service announcements for non-profit community organizations in Boulder. Enrollment in this course is enrollment in the partner Three Days in Spring.

Video Poetry

In this class students will read, write, and critique poetry. In addition, we will learn video software including iMovie and, potentially, Final Cut Express. For their final projects, students will create video interpretations of favorite poems. (Also Language Arts)

Video Production: Artistic Expression through Video

This course will introduce students to basic single-camera video production strategies and concepts. We will begin the class by exploring the language of cinema and deconstructing shots and sequences from a variety of film/video genres. We will observe and discuss psychological elements including composition, framing, lighting, montage, and sound. The screenings will demonstrate many different ways to tell a story, convey emotion, and articulate meaning. Critical analysis will serve as the foundation as we progress through the stages of pre-production (planning, storyboarding) production (collecting images and sounds) and post production (editing and sound design). Students will be expected to defend their aesthetic choices and discuss the ideas behind their work.

Video Production: Documentary

We will produce short videos that provide valuable information on non-fiction subjects. We will work on the technical, artistic, journalistic, and communicative aspects of videography. Previous experience is not required, but is welcome.

Video Production: Intermediate and Advanced

This class will allow students a chance to strengthen their video skills and deepen their knowledge of film. There will be weekly check-ins, via email and conferences, but most of the work will occur on the students' time. Students will propose the project(s) to be completed during the quarter, and the teacher will support them through it. This is a class for students who have some skills with the technology and with technique, but want to be pushed.

Video Production: Introduction

This class is intended for beginners and will introduce students to media literacy (how to read a video) as well as video production (how to make a video).

Web Design and Social Responsibility

In this class students will both learn the basics of web design and investigate the ethical issues involved in the World Wide Web.

Web Writing/Design

We will create web pages which provide worthwhile social or cultural commentary. Excellent, polished pages will be posted on the Web. Previous experience with computers, the Internet or Web authoring is not required, but is welcome.

Women's Literature and Video

In this course students will read short stories, poems, and prose from around the world. We will study well known female authors, as well as lesser known names. This class will also incorporate video; students will learn iMovie—or get better. The class culminates by students adapting their favorite stories into short films. (Also Language Arts)

Woodworking with Hand Tools

Take a step back in time to the era of handcrafting. In this class students will craft wood projects using techniques that precede power tools. We will also create needed tools (a treadle lathe) and jigs.

World Lit: Mystery, Crime & Video

See description under Language Arts

World Literature/Video Production

Students will study short stories from around the world and learn to create video interpretations of literature. Students will have both written and film assignments. (Also Language Arts)

World Music Drumming

This class will explore the tradition of Afro-Latin drumming.

Writers' Workshop: Blogs

This course will teach students how to participate in the newly evolving blogscape. While airing your own views and responding to others, we will be working on important writing skills: voice, organization, and, of course, mechanics. (Also Language Arts)

Writers' Workshop: Sports Writing and Video

In this class students will read great sports writing, create their own sports writing and produce short videos connected to the two.

ARTS

Acting: Improvisation and Scene Studies

This course will consist of a combination of theater games, improvisation, and performances of scenes from plays and musicals. Students interested in directing are encouraged to participate since there will be several student-directed scenes in class. The class may conclude with a cabaret-style evening performance of improvisations and scenes.

Acting: The Meisner Technique

The Meisner technique teaches beginning, intermediate or advanced actors to act truthfully and develop realistic characters for the stage and screen. Improvisation and basic scene study are incorporated when students learn a foundation in Meisner. Students learn to bring truthful reactions from self to their characters rather than “acting” a character. Some outside preparation and partner work will be expected.

Advanced Art Seminar

This class is for students who are seriously considering the visual arts as a career and have already taken a visual arts class at New Vista or another high school. Students will work on producing pieces for their portfolios and improving their technical skills in drawing and painting

Art for Social Change

What do Fugazi, Diego Rivera and Public Enemy all have in common? Each has used art to address societal injustices. Facilitated by Project YES, the Art for Social Change class at New Vista offers students a chance to similarly impact their world. Participants will decide on an artistic medium, identify relevant social issues in their community, address a chosen topic through group-created artwork, and present their finished work to the public at a formal unveiling. Founded upon Project YES’ seven-step curriculum, this class will work to dispel traditional stereotypes of apathetic youth by instilling artistic, interpersonal, and leadership skills in its participants.

Arts of the World

This class explores world arts through drawing, painting, and sculpture. We look at and try a wide variety of artistic expressions in part to discover individual talents and preferences. Offerings include painting abstract designs, portraits, landscapes and dreamscapes, Manga and Anime, henna designs and mendhi tattoos, papier-mâché, plaster gauze for sculptures, bead jewelry, macramé, and shell necklaces. One class will be devoted to edible art. Keeping a sketch book/visual journal is encouraged and time will be set aside for free drawing and painting.

Basic Drawing

This class will introduce students to the fundamentals of drawing. It is specially designed for students who do not know how to draw and have not taken a drawing class.

Batik

In this class students will be introduced to the Indonesian art of batik. Students will experience basic batik technique with emphasis on design and color theory.

Beads and Jewelry

Offerings include wire jewelry, beading, macramé, metal overlay pendants or bracelets, learning basic soldering, and African beaded sculptures. We will also make our own beads and use some specialty beads like the “beads for life” fair trade beads. Feel free to bring in old or funky costume jewelry to take apart and reassemble.

Beginning and Intermediate Ceramics

Students will be given the opportunity to explore and experiment with clay in order to discover their own means of artistic expression. This course will include a brief history of ceramics and ceramic artists, hand-building demonstrations, and experimentation with various glazing techniques. This will be a mixed level class. Please talk with Jen about your previous experience with clay **before** signing up for the intermediate level.

Black & White Photography (Beginning)

See description under Applied Technology.

Black & White Photography (Intermediate/Advanced)

See description under Applied Technology.

Black and White Photography: Portraiture

See description under Applied Technology

Bookmaking

Students of all abilities are welcome in this class which will focus on creating personal books on subjects that students choose. Students will learn the skills involved in bookmaking, collage, and graphic design.

Ceramic Hand Building

Students will be given the opportunity to explore and experiment with clay in order to discover their own means of artistic expression. This course will include a brief history of ceramics, hand building demonstrations, vocabulary, and experimentation with various decorating and glazing techniques. Students will create clay art including tiles, small vessels, mini-sculptures, and more. Beginning- to advanced-level students welcome. Fee \$20.00

Ceramic Tiles and Mosaics

In this class students will study a brief history of ceramic tiles and mosaics and then learn how to make traditional handmade clay tiles. We will use various decorating and glazing techniques. Students will then create their own mosaics from these tiles. Each student will need to provide a frame or small coffee table to structure their mosaic.

Choreography

This class is for dancers of all levels and styles who want to make dances and develop the craft of doing so. The application of compositional elements including space, design, form, energy and time for individual and group projects will support a deeper artistic effort. In addition, the class will address the art and act of non-verbal communication through dance.

2 Dimensional Collage

Students will create images and pictures using elements such as found objects, newspaper, wallpaper, photographs, cloth, string, etc. By studying artists such as Romare Bearden, Pablo Picasso, David Hockney, Robert Rauschenberg, and more, students will learn how artists have taken advantage of what seem to be unrelated materials, bringing them together to create unified works of art.

Fee: \$20.00

Collage: 2D and 3D

Students will create a picture or sculpture by cutting and pasting elements such as newspaper, wall paper, printed text and illustrations, photographs, cloth, string, etc. By studying such artists as Romare Bearden, Pablo Picasso, David Hockney and Robert Rauschenberg, students will learn how artists have taken advantage of what seems to be unrelated material bringing them together to create unified works of art.

Color Slide Photography

See description under Applied Technology.

Color Theory

Students will examine color theory and explore how other cultures interpret and use color to convey meaning. Students will think about how color can act as a symbol to convey a thought or an emotion. For inspiration and understanding of context, students will study the many ways artists use color alone to turn thoughts and ideas into works of art. Students will also be introduced to a wide range of traditional and nontraditional materials and methods.

Comic Books

Learn to create your own comic book/strip. This class will focus on the drawing and storytelling skills involved in this modern art form.

Computer Art

See description under Applied Technology.

Day of the Dead Arts

The Day of the Dead is a celebration of departed relatives and ancestors in Mexico. In this class students will have a chance to create objects that draw on this tradition, but still reflect each student's unique sensibility.

Doll and Puppet-Making

We will focus mainly on soft sculpture and paper mâché dolls and puppets. Other materials, such as clay ceramic, wood and metal may be inserted into each student's individual design. Each student is required to finish 1 fine doll, 1 fine puppet, a daily sketch book done on your own time and attend 2 mandatory critiques.

Drawing

This course will focus on the techniques that artists use to render three-dimensional objects on a two dimensional surface. This is an important class for anyone who wants to pursue an art school path and an enjoyable one for anyone who wants to be able to "draw what they see".

Drawing: Food and Art

Drawing eggs to candy, the students in this class will greatly improve their drawing skills and art history knowledge. Looking into the past, students will realize that one of the staple subjects of artists has been FOOD!!! They will look at examples of famous artists (Cezanne, Dutch Still Life School, Warhol, Oldenburg, etc.) and REAL life objects (fruits, vegetables, eggs, etc) to create their own work. We will learn about the elements and principles of art using different drawing media (pencil, charcoal, pastel, etc). Daily sketchbook assignments, major projects (lots of still-lives) and research assignments are required. Some drawing skills or previous classes will be useful.

Perspective Drawing

See description under Applied Technology.

Drawing and Painting 1

This class is geared towards students wishing to increase proficiency in both drawing and painting. Drawing will be from observation, references and imagination. We will work with a variety of media including various drawing materials, acrylic paint, watercolors, inks and spray paint. The goal is to increase self-confidence, explore a variety of styles and media and produce successful works of art.

Drawing: Portraiture

In this class students will learn to draw portraits of each other and other models. Charcoal will be primary medium. Watercolors and pastels will be introduced as well.

Drawing Like the Masters

Students will study famous artists and create their own art working using the masters' techniques and styles. A close look will be taken at DaVinci, O'Keefe, Picasso. The course involves art history, creating art and research.

Found Object Sculpture

Create three-dimensional works of art from the everyday objects around you.

Furniture Re-Do

A participatory, hands-on, wear old clothes, art/craft class renovating cheap, old, junky furniture into one of a kind, chic, new, funky treasures. Techniques covered will include: painting, stenciling, sponging, distressing, finishing, basic re-upholstery and broken tile mosaic. Students will create individual and group projects – summer yard sales and flea markets are a great source for old chairs, picture frames, tables, etc., that are all potential pieces. Students will be required to provide at least one personal item to redo.

Illustration and Poster Design

Students will explore the design elements used to create images that are part of our everyday life. From slogans like Nike's "just do it" or Coca-Cola's red cans and wavy lines, design elements are used to catch the viewer's eye to sell a product or idea. By exploring the work of artists such as Andy Warhol, Barbara Kruger, Sol Lewitt and others students will learn how artists use these same design elements from popular media to create works of fine art. Students will then create and illustrate their own slogans or product design for display within the school.

Instrument Making

Students will study a brief history of instruments and look closely at the evolution of instruments over time. Students will be given the opportunity to make, decorate, and play their own instruments in this class. Various materials will be used such as wood, plastic, packaging tape, nails, guitar strings, clay leather, metal, beads, PVC pipe, and more.

Intermediate Studio Art: Painting, Drawing, and Design

This class delves deeper into explorations of art through painting, drawing, and design. More time will be spent in individual art expression and working in both larger sizes and a study of working in miniature. Class projects will include: 7-minute paintings-learning to quickly observe and capture a vision, or emotion, life drawing with attired models, and outdoor sketches.

Prerequisite: One Block Art class

Fee: \$15.00

Latin American Rhythms: Carnaval!

Learn (hands on!) about this exciting celebration which traditionally takes place for four days in a row prior to Lent in many countries around the globe, but with special spices in the Caribbean. In this course we will create a mini-Carnaval for New Vista. Be ready to let go of linear thinking, typical ways of dressing, and body stiffness, and get ready to engage in a colorful, dynamic, beautiful and not quite wild combination of dancing, singing, acting, scriptwriting, playing, art-making. Spanish is not required, but is very welcome. There will be five short rehearsals after school. Be willing to try new ways of expressing yourself and discover hidden talents!

Latin American Rhythms: Rueda de Casino

This class, taught by teachers from Bantaba World Dance and Music Center, introduces students to the Cuban social dance, rueda de casino. Students change partners, change styles, and change directions in a round Latin version of American square dancing. The class is open to dancers of all levels who want to move to the beat of Latin salsa.

Mask Making

See description under Applied Technology

Methods and Materials

Students will explore the many methods and materials that artists use to create pictorial compositions. Students will learn basic techniques such as how to use color and light, how to draw in perspective, and how to use balance and space in your art works to create one-of-a-kind images. Each student will discover his or her style of art making by exploring various drawing mediums, painting in water color, and scratch board etchings. At the conclusion of the course students will have a variety of artworks ranging from quick exercises to finished fine works of art.

Modern Art Drawing

This is both a drawing and art history appreciation class that will focus on artists and styles of the 20th century. The class will focus on producing art and understanding art through a study of history and the elements and basic principles of two-dimensional art. Artists and styles that may be covered include: Picasso, Dali, O'Keefe, Escher, Pop Art, Surrealists, and others. Students will complete 4 – 6 major drawing projects; have daily sketchbook/warm-up assignments, a research project, and homework.

Multimedia Art

This class explores art through drawing, painting, sculpture, digital photography, Manga, contemporary surrealism, and fabrics. The class will also include mendhi (henna tattoos) and edible art. Whether you like to dabble in various art forms or want to put together a portfolio for art school, this class is enjoyable for all levels. Keeping a sketch book/visual journal is encouraged and time will be set aside for free drawing and painting.

Mural Painting

Students will study a brief history of mural painting and the techniques used to create these works of art. Students will use these techniques to create various murals through the school for display.

Music Theory

Have you ever wondered about the name of the chords you're playing or about why certain chords seem to go with others? Have you ever had trouble figuring out which scale to solo on? Do you have problems communicating your ideas to fellow musicians? Tried to write a song and couldn't find the right chords? In this class we'll explore the common language of music by learning basic theory in an applied practical setting. That means we will put what we learn to immediate use as you learn how to solve all these problems? This class is for musicians and singers of all levels. Bring your instruments to class.

Painters and Painting

We will become familiar with different historical periods and the painters that influenced and worked during those times. Students will explore an art movement and a painter. Slides, readings, and guest speakers will be used to expand our understanding and recognition of painters and painting. A Saturday field trip will be required.

Performance Ensemble

This class will help students acquire the skills of both improvisation and being a member of an improvisational ensemble. A variety of musical genres will be explored including jazz, rock, blues and those played by students. Students should have their own instruments and have mastered the instrument's basics.

Perspective Drawing

This is a basic drawing class to learn how to create a sense of depth in your drawings. The students will be creating drawings using one-point perspective and two-point perspective. Most of the class will be spent creating objects (table, chairs, etc.), buildings, and landscapes in three dimensions. Students will have a sketchbook and will be required to do daily assignments and homework. An inexpensive mechanical pencil will be required, plus a \$20 art fee

Portfolio Development

This class addresses will cover putting together a portfolio for submission to art school. We will draw from life and your imagination, paint, sculpt, and explore various art forms. Ideal for anyone who might consider art as a career, but also suitable for any level artist. A class goal will be to assemble a collection of your artwork in a Power Point presentation.

Principles of Art and Design

See description under Multimedia Art

Art fee \$20

Printmaking

This is an exploratory class using various printmaking styles and materials. We will cover stencils, silkscreen on paper and fabric, linoleum block cuts, making and printing wood blocks and mono prints.

Salsa I

The focus is Salsa de Rueda, a kind of Cuban square dance with rotating partners based on salsa moves.

Salsa I and II

This class is designed for both students who have taken Salsa I and would like more and for students who are totally new to the dance. Honestly, it works.

Sculpture and 3D Art

In this class we'll work a lot with paper clay for the sculptures. We'll also do plaster and gauze, wire sculptures, casting with plaster, papier-mâché and cloth structures and some metal sculptures with recycled materials.

Self-Portraiture in Art History

Each student will pick and research a favorite artist from any period, producing both a report and a self-portrait in the style of that artist and others.

Self-Portraiture Through Multi-Media

This is a class for the serious art student or the student with a strong desire to be so. We will delve into self-portraiture in drawing, watercolor, acrylic, papier-mâché, plaster masks and sculpture. You must be prepared to invest some hours each week in out-of-class studio time.

Singing for Self Expression and Collective Enjoyment

This is a class that combines an introduction to proper singing technique with opportunities for individual creativity and improvising in a group. In each class we will spend time training our voices with exercises used by professional vocalists for the care of the voice and the development of good singing technique. We will move on to group singing and improvisation in a variety of styles such as Indian raga singing, hip hop and beat boxing, blues, folk singing, African harmony, and avant-garde anything-goes vocal experimentation. Time will also be spent on smaller group or individual projects. The goal of the nine-week session will be to create a dynamic performance of varied and interesting vocal music.

Sketch Comedy Performance

LIVE FROM NEW VISTA... IT'S SATURDAY NIGHT! In this class we will analyze, write and perform sketch comedy inspired by the legendary TV show, "Saturday Night Live!" We will learn sketch, improvisation and stand-up comedy skills to enhance our comedic abilities. This class will culminate in a performance modeled after Saturday Night Live including parodies, a satirical news segment and comedic commercials. We will work together to overcome fear of performance and deepen our love and knowledge of comedy. Don't be shy...come join us for the fun! All levels welcome.

Small Murals

In this class students will work with 4' X 4' boards to create murals they can take home with them.

String Ensemble

String players are invited to join this small ensemble to develop individual and group skills. The instrumentation can be very flexible. The focus varies with the interests of teacher and students.

Studio Fundamentals

Do you often have fantastic ideas for the art you would like to do but you feel you lack the skill or confidence to execute your ideas as you envision them? Then this is the class for you. This is a rigorous and intense class of exercises and skill building techniques which will push you beyond your current level of ability. We will experiment with all the elements of art. Students will also keep a daily sketchbook that they do on their own time. There are two mandatory critiques.

Textile and Fabric Art

This class will explore various methods of working with fabrics, paints, and dyes including batik, hand-painted fabrics, tie-dye, and splatter paint on fabrics, clothing, and shoes. We will experiment with making visual art to hang and wearable art. Feel free to bring clothes you want to turn into art.

Textile Survey Course

In this class students will have the opportunity to taste a variety of textile arts such as basketry, surface design, felting, and weaving.

Theater of the Living Image – Creating and Touring

Theater of the Living Image is a way of working with text from a play in order to capture the essence of its meaning and communicate it through a series of images. These images may be acted, danced, filmed, or otherwise presented in a variety of genres or media. This class serves the interests of students who want to explore bringing an image to life through artistic expression.

We will create a dramatic adaptation of a children's story for theatrical performance. The application of compositional elements, including space, design, form, energy and time supports a thorough artistic effort.

Theater Production

In this class students prepare and perform a full production for public performance. The works we put on, in general, are not well known to American theater going audiences. Plays for this class are selected for the opportunity they give students to explore social and historical issues, relationships between characters and different aspects of themselves.

Theater Production: *As You Like It* by William Shakespeare

Theater Production: *The Bourgeois Gentleman* by Moliere

Theater Production: *Galileo/The Crucible* - Dramatic Perspectives on Persecution of Thought and Expression

Theater Production: *The Good Woman of Szechuan*

Theater Production: *The Hobbit*

Theater Production: *The Illusion* by Pierre Corneille

Theater Production: *Little Shop of Horrors – The Musical*

Theater Production: *The Love of the Nightingale*

Based on an ancient Greek myth, *The Love of the Nightingale* by Timberlake Wertenbaker, is the story of two royal sisters, Philomel and Procne, who are taken to Thrace by King Tereus. Those who have seen *The 300* will recognize some of the Spartan elements in the script, with its battles and its world of aggressive warrior culture. However this play explores the damages created by such a culture. It is an explosive drama about the power of words and the price of using violence to enforce silence – a tragedy of loss and revenge that ultimately leads to a message of transformation and freedom with outstanding roles for women and men.

Theater Production: *Love or Something Like It*

This class will pull scenes from *Chicago* and *Cabaret* and transform them into a production dealing with the many experiences/emotions involved with love. The class' production will have at least one public performance. No acting experience required.

Theatre Production: *One-Act Plays*

See description under Language Arts

Theater Production: *Our Country's Good*

This play, based on real events and people, takes place in a prison colony in the late 1700's. English prisoners were sent to Australia as punishment for their crimes. Soldiers, thieves, murderers and prostitutes come together to perform a play with their captors in this funning and touching dramatic work with a large cast, written in 1988 by Timberlake Wertenbaker.

Theater Production: *Our Town*

Theater Production: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare

Theater Production: *Scapin* by Moliere

The play is a slapstick French comedy adapted by a living clown, Bill Irwin. In this production, I want to bring in modern day popular songs to comment on the action in the play. We will create a cartoon-like setting to suite Scapin's tone. This will be a very physical production.

Theater Production: Shakespeare on Tour

This production will be directed by Melinda Scott, Educational Outreach Director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival. The play produced First Quarter will be taken on tour Second Quarter during Wednesday Community Experience

Theater Production: Three One Act Plays

Tiles and Mosaics

Students will explore the world of two dimensional ceramics creating pieces of art using the traditional forms of square tiles and variously shaped mosaics. The class will explore the history of these art forms and give students the opportunity to create new works with reference to what has gone before.

Two-Dimensional Design

This course will explore the elements and principles of design through projects involving a wide range of media including construction paper, watercolors, acrylics/oils, charcoal, conte crayon etc. Students will express their creativity while learning what makes designs compelling and communicative.

Video Poetry

In this class students will read, write, and critique poetry. In addition, we will learn video software including iMovie and, potentially, Final Cut Express. For their final projects, students will create video interpretations of favorite poems. (Also Language Arts)

Visual Arts – Fine Arts

Students in this class will focus on drawing and painting, not crafts, not graphic design.

Vocal Rhythms

Fun, funky singing based on the beat. We will do vocal percussion, African chants, choral rounds, Hip Hop and more...Students will have the opportunity to bring in their own music for us to work on. We will connect with ourselves and each other through nature's great connector – rhythm.

Voice Ensemble

In this choral class students will develop their technical skills and have a chance to sing in a group. The repertoire will be a mixture of student and teacher choice. This class is for students who can carry a tune and keep a rhythm.

Weaving/Fiber

This fiber art/technology class is devoted to the exploration and experience of weaving as a multi-cultural, functional art form. Students are required to complete woven projects made of various fibers, using different techniques and working on different types of looms. A presentation of various weaving related topics (weaving, spinning, history, types of textiles, etc) will begin each class. Also, each class will begin with students writing/designing entries in a Journal. The remainder (majority) of the class time will be spent weaving and creating. A major research project is required.

World Music: West African Music and Culture

This class is a unique collaboration between Bantaba World Music and Dance Studio and New Vista. Five West African Artists who are visiting CU and teaching through Bantaba will take turns teaching students the music and dance of Ghana, Senegal and Mali. The course will also be an immersion in West African Culture. No previous experience is necessary, only a willingness to participate.

World Music: Drumming

This class will explore the tradition of Afro-Latin drumming.

World Music: Marimbas and Drums

This class will focus on percussion instruments in musical traditions around the world. It will include more intensive studies of marimba from the Shona people of Zimbabwe, as well as drumming techniques from Africa, the Caribbean and Southeast Asia. No previous experience is required, but students must participate in a final Exhibition Day performance.

INTERPERSONAL SKILLS

Business: Basics

This is an introduction to a variety of business topics, including: accounting, finance, economics, strategic management, business law and marketing. Case studies will be used to explore how actual businesses have grown and solved problems. Visitors and site visits will help the class see how the concepts of the class are applied in the business world.

Business: Marketing

In this course we will study the art of marketing. We will look at specific business strategies around marketing products and services, discuss new ideas in marketing, research quality marketing campaigns and develop some commercials of our own. We will also look into how strategies change when marketing different identities (a non-profit, a person, a business) and focus specifically on marketing New Vista. One major project in the class will be to develop a marketing strategy for New Vista and to share with the administration our final ideas.

Child Development and Behavior

We will begin by looking at reproduction, childbirth, the newborn and infancy, and move through childhood and adolescence. We will discuss positive discipline and various theories of child behavior. Students will have several projects and activities around child rearing to broaden their perspective on child behavior.

Child Development and Care

In this class students will learn about childcare programs. They will design, organize and facilitate a child care center at New Vista. They will be expected to visit and critique daycare centers in the community as research for the center at New Vista. Students will also explore various curricula such as literature, art, music and crafts with children. We will also investigate obtaining a child care license.

Entrepreneurship

This course is designed for students who are interested in starting their own businesses or a school business at New Vista High School. Topics to be covered include writing a business plan, marketing, inventory, purchasing, sales and accounting. Written project required.

Human Sexuality Today

Human sexuality is a complex issue in today's society. There is so much to know that it is often difficult to be sure of the correct decisions to make. In this course you will gain the tools of knowledge necessary to make choices about your sexuality. We will address mate selection, anatomy, alternative lifestyles, contraception, and many other issues through readings, projects, speakers, and presentations.

Latin American Culture

The class will investigate the different issues and lifestyles in various Latin American countries. We will compare what we discover with what we see/experience in the United States. The class will also touch on such current topics as Bilingual Education, immigration, etc.

Snowboards, Skis and Service

Students will work with ESRP (Eldora Special Recreation Program) to help teach students with disabilities how to ski and snowboard.

Student Leadership

This class will develop the skills of class members so that they can take a variety of leadership roles in the school and the community. Emphasis will be placed on taking responsibility for the enculturation of new students and recruiting prospective students.

INTRAPERSONAL SKILLS

Analyzing Character Through Theories of Personality

Who are you? What makes you unique? Were you born to be who you are or did you learn it? In this course we will explore some of the most significant theories of personality development. Through research and discussion we will look at the similarities and the differences between major theories of personality development. After taking a good look at the research on personality and taking a multitude of personality tests, you will analyze your own personality to determine which of the theories best explain what makes you unique and special.

Basketball

This class is open to students at all levels who want to learn or improve their basketball game.

Capoeira

This is a unique Brazilian mix of martial arts, dance and music. Participants learn the distinctive moves (cartwheels, in particular) of this form as well as how to share in the making of the music. .

Community Adventure Program

The Community Adventure Program (CAP) is a unique class offered at New Vista High School through the Cottonwood Institute. In CAP we will practice essential camping and wilderness survival skills *and* inform ourselves about pressing environmental issues affecting our community. In addition you will begin to explore the ways that environmental issues are intricately connected to social justice, wealth inequities, and people's personal choices.

Time in class will be spent hiking, practicing nature awareness skills, playing games, and meeting with local organizations. You will go on many field trips as well as two weekend overnights. You will also work with your classmates to design a student-directed Environmental Action Project to address the environmental issue of your choice.

CAP is for students who want to practice outdoor skills, explore Colorado's wilderness, discuss and debate local issues and have a positive impact in the community. For more information visit our class website: www.cottowoodinstitute.org/blogs/new-vista-high-school.

NOTE: this class has a \$15 fee, financial assistance is available!

Fitness and Conditioning

Students in this class will use a variety of traditional and contemporary strategies for significantly improving their fitness for a variety of sports and physical activities.

Gardening

We will learn about growing perennial and annual flowers, vegetables and trees in Colorado. We will spend some time working in a community garden, as well as working on the New Vista courtyard. Students will also start seeds and plants in class.

Independent Living

Living on your own opens up a whole new and exciting world. However, living on your own also has its share of problems and challenges. In order to be a successful, independent person you will want to know some important things about buying, selling and negotiating on your own. In this course, we will learn about finding and leasing an apartment, writing resumes and applying for jobs, using credit, and buying cars and other large items which will make life on your own more secure and definitely more comfortable.

Independent Living: Focus on Finances

This class will help you understand what it takes to live on your own – from renting a place, buying a car, accessing insurance, dealing with credit cards, and establishing a decent credit rating. We will look at these issues from the perspective of the individual as well as gain an understanding of the systems that define contemporary life. Be prepared to use your calculator to figure out what it really costs to live in America!

Kickboxing

Kickboxing is the art of hand and leg techniques used for self defense. Nowadays it is used by many people to increase the quality of their lives through its positive effects on health, self-discipline, self respect, and respect for others. In this class participants will have a great workout, increasing their strength, flexibility, coordination, cardiovascular endurance, and focus. We will also have fun. By the end you will notice a great improvement in physical and mental well being.

Literacy/Math Support

This class is for students who need support for the math classes they are taking in AM or PM block, and for those students who need some extra help with reading skills.

Making It At New Vista High School

This class provides support for students to be successful in their other classes.

Meditation/Mindfulness

In this class students will learn the basics of a mindfulness practice through the techniques of sitting and waking meditation. The class will also introduce strategies for practicing mindfulness “off the cushion” and developing a regular, personal practice. Most of the class will be spent in silence practicing the techniques. There will also be whole class discussions of student experiences and some one-on-one coaching.

Movement: Connecting the Mind and the Body

In this class we will explore the connection between your mind and body. We will discuss the role your body plays in life and the importance of accepting and using your body. We will also discuss the psychology of movement, and how simple movement activities can aid in learning, not only in school but in life. We will incorporate movement into every class, but will dedicate Wednesdays exclusively to movement activities. You will be encouraged to stretch and practice on your own time. Be prepared to work hard in class and be sore the next day.

Nutrition and You

Want to know what to do to feel good and look great? This course will look at proteins, carbohydrates, and fats, as well as all the vitamins and minerals we need. We will explore herbal and natural medicine as alternatives to Western Medicine. Students will do a variety of research projects on each one of these topics. Listening to guest speakers, going on a field trip, and becoming a healthier you will be some of the activities.

Outdoor Leadership

Packed with adventure programming and preparedness, this seminar will challenge you to become a safe, proficient, and reliable outdoor leader. Topics will include: outdoor safety, the A-Z's of trip planning (including menu preparation, clothes and equipment needs), water and fire usages, introduction to wilderness first aid, low impact camping and hiking skills, map and compass use, and effective leadership and communication skills. Most activities will be hands on, and students will work in small groups to design and prepare a trip that could be chosen as our culminating weekend adventure. Group challenge and teambuilding games and activities will intertwine through the experience to round off your leadership skills. Interested students might link this class to a community experience in elementary and middle schools.

Post Secondary Research

This class teaches students:

- o How to choose a college/post-secondary school, researching, making a list, finding good matches
- o How to fill out applications
- o How to write the application essay
- o How to research financial aid opportunities

This class is for students who will be applying to college/post secondary schools this school year. Others may register if numbers allow.

Post-High School Transitions

This class is intended to help students do what needs to be done to graduate on time and begin the next stage of their lives.

Rites of Passage

Students will begin to understand transitions in life in general and their own individual experiences in particular through the use of readings, writing, storytelling, art activities and film.

Something Physical

For students of all ages, this class is an opportunity to learn and play a variety of indoor and outdoor sports - volleyball, basketball, soccer, Frisbee, etc. Yoga will also be practiced to increase strength and flexibility.

Topics in PE: Four Games and a Teacher

This class will give students the opportunity to play volleyball, basketball, indoor soccer, and indoor hockey. We will develop skills and sportsmanship.

Topics in PE: Volleyball and More

This class is open to all students interested in learning VB skills. Our hope is to use this class as a springboard to re-start the New Vista Boys (Coed) Volleyball team.

Topics in PE: Yoga

During high school you undergo more physical and emotional changes than at any other time in your life. This yoga class will give you the opportunity to witness these changes and develop a practice that will address your personal needs. This course is designed to help you learn to reduce stress, increase your power of focused, clear attention, and develop balanced muscular strength, flexibility, and stability. You'll learn how to relax, breathe, and enjoy. Not only will your performance in sports and academics greatly improve, but so will your day-to-day, moment-by-moment success and happiness. By the end of this course, you will obtain a profound sense of ownership of your body and of your life. Students with or without previous yoga experience are welcome to attend.

Transitions: Getting Out into the Real World

Whether you want an extended community experience, a job, or an internship, this class can help get you out there. Learn about yourself, opportunities in the community, and how to find and get the job or experience you want. One goal of the class is to help students get experiences for this summer which will earn them credit.

Wellness 101

This is a class designed for the student that is already active or the one that would like to start. This class will help students to make healthy choices related to exercise/movement and nutrition. You will learn how to come up with a wellness plan including how to start a cardiovascular program, some basic weight training/exercises to help develop muscles, basic stretching techniques, and nutrition tips to help ensure your wellness throughout your life. No experience is necessary, just a good attitude and the ability to move.

LANGUAGE ARTS

All World Literature and American Literature classes focus on both literary analysis and composition.

American Literature: Backgrounds in American Literature

This course will trace American writing through its roots: from pre-settlement and the colonial period, to the founding of a nation, through the 19th century. The works will show the history of ideas in this country and how these ideas have shaped our nation. In the beginning, students will read major works together as a class; toward the end students will explore their favorite writers in greater depth independently.

American Literature: The Beat Generation

This year is the 50th anniversary of the publication of *On the Road* by Jack Kerouac and all the world is talking about this genre-breaking novel again. Why? Take this course and find out. We will read that novel along with Ken Kesey's *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and other works of this powerful group of friends. We will look into what influenced them and who they influenced. We will learn to write in their style and we will take advantage of the fact that Boulder is home to the Jack Kerouac School of Disembodied Poetics.

American Literature: Challenged and Banned Books

Almost every idea has proved objectionable to some person at some time. In this course we will explore the taboo topics in formerly banned books and learn how we have come to find these topics and/or language appropriate in contemporary times. We will investigate how subject matter in schools changes in regard to a variety of issues, such as race, gender and language. We begin with Huckleberry Finn and continue to more contemporary texts. The class will emphasize analytic reading and critical writing.

American Literature: Chicano/a Literature

Many children of Mexicans in The United States suffer an identity crisis: they do not want to throw away their Mexican heritage and at the same time they want to acknowledge that they are American. In the 1960's and 70's there was a burgeoning literary movement which was inseparable from the Chicano social and political movement. We will explore Chicano literature and learn how it gave the people in the movement a voice and the empowerment to find dignity and self-identity.

American Literature: Coming of Age in Literature

This course will explore the coming of age experiences represented in *Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger and *Annie John* by Jamaica Kincaid. We will compare and contrast the lives of a male and female who are from different economic, social and ethnic backgrounds but are both struggling to "fit in." Students will be working on their own stories as we read these, as well as writing a formal analysis on one book of their choice.

American Literature: Contemporary Literature and Society

In this course we will read a wide variety of texts – short stories, poetry, essays, art, and a novel or two – and consider the relationships between our late 20th century "global" society and the art (mostly writing) of this era. We will study what is called "post-modernism" and contemporary literature's place in the literary tradition. Over the quarter, students will work on a multi-genre portfolio of writings (essays, poems, stories, and non-fiction) with the goal of a completed collection for presentation at the end of the quarter.

American Literature: Contemporary Writing about Immigration

The U.S. is often described as a country of immigrants, but U.S. immigration has had a very complex relationship with the "American Dream." This class will explore the diverse experiences of U.S. immigrants through stories, poetry, essays, and film. We will examine questions of language, culture, community, and family; and we will reflect on our own experiences of identity and belonging. Students will participate in class discussions, independent research, and will develop both creative and analytical responses to the readings.

American Literature: Decades of Change: Popular Culture of the 50's, 60's and 70's

“Sex, Drugs and Rock and Roll” - this is the phrase which symbolizes the tumultuous 60's. Yet, the periods which precede and follow the 60's are just as important to the changes in the American cultural landscape. These periods indicate both innocence and simplicity, complexity and rebellion. These are the times of the hula-hoop, the pursuit of the American Dream, the triumphant trip to the moon, the hippie, Nixon, and of course, disco. The impact of these periods shaped music, literature and art in a way that will never be forgotten. In this course we will explore these periods and how they have changed the American societal conscience. (Also Social Studies.)

American Literature: Dystopia – Paradise’s Evil Twin

In a society where conformity rules and social class differences are strictly enforced, is there any hope for humanity? Discover why so many authors have constructed a horrific vision of the future and what it means to us in the present day. Are these flights of fancy or cautionary tales? We will read books and short stories such as: *The Handmaid’s Tale*, where religious fundamentalism reigns and *Harrison Bergeron* where everyone is “equal”.

American Literature: Exposing the Human Grotesque

Carl Jung said that within every human being there is a dark side. Sigmund Freud believed that humans have desires that are better left suppressed in the human unconscious. In this course, we will explore the more “grotesque” side of human nature through the works of writers in the 20th century. We will read selections from *Winesburg Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson, one novel by William Faulkner, one novella by Carson McCullers, and several short stories in order to expose the dark side in their literary characters

American Literature: Excess vs Machine

William Carlos Williams said, “The work will be in the realm of the imagination as plain as the sky is to a fisherman...” This course will explore paramount American writers during the first two decades of the twentieth century. We will attempt to understand the impact that the written and visual arts had on the minds of the American public. We will be reading selections from Marianne Moore, Gertrude Stein, Mina Loy, T.S. Eliot, and William Carlos Williams each week and discussing the importance of those works.

American Literature: Families in Literature

Politicians preach “family values” while many wonder what does “family” mean in an ever-changing and growing society. Does a narrow definition of the “typical” family have effects on “other” types of families? Why are these other families cut off from media representation? Literature is a powerful lens through which to gain insight into the lives of many different kinds of families. In this class we will read a diverse range of texts about the full spectrum of American families, including families of varied ethnicities and sexual orientations. Expect to read a variety of contemporary works, including novels, short stories, and poems.

American Literature: Faulkner

In this course, we will travel together to Yoknapatawpha County - William Faulkner’s fictional setting for many of his stories and novels. Beyond the stoic pillars of abandoned Southern plantations and moldy shacks in the country, we will discover the secrets of this community’s characters, including an old woman with a nasty secret in the attic, the reflections of a family as they take their dead mother to be buried, and a boy’s terrifying experience with an ominous bear. The work of Faulkner is challenging, but I think you’ll find he is well worth the effort.

American Literature: GLBTQ - Gays and Lesbians in Society and Literature

History and literature are brimming with diversity – unfortunately we have not always been aware of just how diverse we are. In this course we will examine the lives, struggles and contributions of gays, lesbians and trans-gendered individuals. We will discuss a variety of topics, including historical treatment, laws, social interaction, and various forms of literature as a way to determine how these issues have influenced the experiences of gays and lesbians in society.

American Literature: Hawthorne

Nathaniel Hawthorne was born on July 4, 1804 in Salem, Massachusetts to a prominent family. Hawthorne's fiction gives readers a feel for the history of New England. Students will read many of Hawthorne's short stories and will be a part of a book club centered around one of Hawthorne's novels: *The Marble Faun*, *The Blithedale Romance*, *The Scarlet Letter*, or *The House of the Seven Gables*.

American Literature: Hemingway

In this class we will examine the man, his life and his writings, including both short stories and novels such as *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, *The Old Man and The Sea*, and *The Sun Also Rises*.

American Literature: I Am Me

Trying to discover what defines you as an individual can be very difficult. Through the use of multi-cultural novels, we will examine the struggles people face when trying to figure out where they belong in society. By linking common struggles from one novel to the next, we will gain a better understanding of what creates our identities and what are some of the challenges of creating our own personal self.

American Literature: Introduction to Novels

In this class students will develop the skills needed to analyze those longer stories known as novels. We will read one or two novels as a class. Students will also be able to select their own novels for final projects.

American Literature: The Individual in Literature

The American culture has always stressed the importance of individuality in our society. In this class we will look at three different authors from three different generations and the way they interpreted individual freedom. Thoreau's *Civil Disobedience*, Kerouac's *On The Road*, and John Krakauer's *Into the Wild* are three nonfiction texts which take a look at individuals who shun society and interpret the American Dream on their own terms.

American Literature: The Individual in Society

What if we lived in a society that didn't allow individuality? What if everyone was expected to act in a certain way in order to ensure some forms of happiness and order? OR – What if we valued our individuality more than our relationships with others? What if we all focused only on our happiness and ignored the happiness of others? In this class we will read two books, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild* and explore these questions. By looking at the worlds of two extremists, we will examine our role (if any) in society and society's role (if any) in our lives.

American Literature: Literature and the Spirit of Individuality

The role of individuality is often controversial within the context of various societies. This course will examine a variety of artists whose works question and discuss the role of the individual. We will analyze the societal contexts that both fueled and were affected by these controversial artists. Why were they controversial? Are they still? Our class will focus primarily on Walt Whitman, and we will also touch on many other American figures including Ralph Waldo Emerson, William Blake, Ayn Rand, and Henry David Thoreau.

American Literature: Literature of Journalism

In this class we will take a glimpse into the world of journalism. Everyday we are constantly subjected to messages and images that are acting to influence the way we see the world. What are the biases that different news sources present? What is happening in our world and what do we think about it? Through debate, Socratic seminar, and persuasive writing, we will explore the news we read and watch, and analyze how/why information is conveyed to us about national and international issues.

American Literature: The Literature of War

Students will read several novels written about American involvement in war since the country's founding. Texts include *The Red Badge of Courage*, *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *For Whom the Bell Toll*, and *The Things They Carry*.

American Literature: Lost Voices

This class will focus on authors, poets, and people from 19th century American literature who haven't been represented until the last twenty years. The texts will range from slave narratives, to speeches, to poetry by mothers, and historical accounts. Students will complete projects using power point, photoshop, the web, and other applied technologies.

American Literature: *Moby Dick*

This class will focus solely on Melville's *Moby Dick*, one of the more famous American novels. This novel will be the focus of discussions, seminars, and writings. Students will decide if it's a classic. We will look into background texts and information to put the book into context.

American Literature: Native American Myths and Contemporary Culture

To one degree or another everyone recounts past events with some amount of distortion. Often the distortion reflects one's attitudes and assumptions about the world. In this course we will look at Native American myths and examine how they have influenced the telling of the contemporary Native American experience through writers such as N. Scott Momaday and Leslie Marmon Silko. We will read a variety of myths from different nations, Momaday's *The Way to Rainy Mountain*, as well as a selection of short stories and poetry by Silko and other contemporary Native American writers. We will also consider how myths have influenced Native American art and film, such as *Smoke Signals* (1998); the first feature film written, directed, and co-produced by Native Americans, and also featuring Native Americans in all the lead roles.

American Literature: Nature Writing

The natural glories of the United States have been an essential aspect of this nation's identity. The poetry and prose of such authors as William Henry Thoreau, John Muir, Gary Snyder, Annie Dillard, and Rachel Carson will form one aspect of this course. Simultaneously, we shall explore human sensation as an aspect of natural existence by reading selections from Diane Ackerman's *A Natural History of the Senses*. Analytical responses to these works, as well as personal exploration and responses to our natural surroundings, will comprise the written assignments for this course.

American Literature: Novels Now

What novels will become the important texts to read in the 21st Century? What will be the classics of tomorrow? This course is intended to acquaint you with some of the most popular and current fiction written since 1960.

American Literature: Poe

Through this class, students will be introduced to the writings and ideas of Edgar Allan Poe, who wrote too much for one class to read together, but hopefully each student will leave the class with a general idea of Poe's writings and a desire to pursue his writings further. Course goals include: to keep you interested in reading or get you back into it; to help you improve as students of English, specifically in the areas of reading, critical thinking, speaking and writing; to introduce you to Poe.

American Literature: Readings in Diversity

This class, based on Socratic Seminars, will use as its texts a variety of written material that speaks to the diverse life experiences of Americans. You can expect voices from a variety of ethnic, religious and socio-economic groups, as well as different genders and sexual orientations.

American Literature: The Roaring Twenties

The 1920's were a period of American prosperity and optimism. The Roaring Twenties was the decade of bath tub gin, the model T, and paying jobs. It was also a time of rising intolerance and isolation. Through close readings of major texts and poetry we will explore topics and themes that made the 1920's the most explosive decade in the century.

American Literature: Short Stories

Through this class students will be introduced to a wide range of American authors. Too many stories exist for one class to read together, but hopefully each student will leave the class with a deeper understanding of American Literature and a desire to keep reading. The goals of this course include: to keep you interested in reading or get you back into it; to help you improve as students of English, specifically in the areas of reading, critical thinking, speaking and writing, and to introduce you to some American authors.

American Literature: Southern Writers

Civil War through the 20th century. From the lush gardens and white cotton fields, to the small towns with quirky characters, southern literature is diverse, complex, and intriguing. Writers such as Mark Twain, William Faulkner, Flannery O'Connor, and Alice Walker have created southern characters and landscapes which vibrate with life and depth. In this class, we will survey some of the most significant literature of the south in an effort to understand the southern artistic perspective.

American Literature: Steinbeck

On the awe-inspiring cliffs overlooking the Pacific waves in Northern California, John Steinbeck wrote moving novels which beckon us to follow, in order to gain a deeper perspective on the trials and tribulations that all people experience. His novels focus on such themes as love, loyalty, sexuality, poverty and the search for identity. Works covered will include *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*.

American Literature: Twentieth Century American Drama

Reading a variety of plays written between 1938 and 2000, we will track the changes in our culture that have taken place as represented in dramatic texts. Attention will be paid to style and content. Performances of scenes will accompany our study of the texts. Plays to be read include: *Our Town*, *Angels in America*, and *This is Our Youth*.

American Literature: Twain

In this course we will read some “good” books by the master of satire and irony, Mark Twain, including classics such as *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *Pudd’nhead Wilson* and *Roughing It*. We will also explore other novels and short stories. Included in our exploration will be the study of the important aspects during his life which influenced his writing.

American Literature: Twentieth Century

This class will introduce students to the wealth of American literature from the 20th Century. We will not cover everything, but rather provide a foundation of knowledge, an introduction to authors and a chance to explore. The course will give students a sense of what ideas exist (and existed) and allow each student to vigorously pursue her/his favorite authors. Students will need to think critically and contribute their ideas to classroom activities.

American Literature: Urban Literature - The Culture of the City

In this course we will look at and determine the effects of the city on individuals, as well as the way we think a city ought to be. In order to accomplish these goals we will read a variety of multi-cultural materials including short stories, plays, poetry and sociological studies. We will look at a variety of films as well. Possibilities include *Chinatown*, *Manhattan*, and *Blade Runner*. We will also spend some time exploring Denver and the metro area. Students will have the opportunity to create their own renditions of an ideal city.

American Literature: Vonnegut—Humor and Satire:

The author Kurt Vonnegut is thought-provoking, complex and definitely challenging in his perspectives and expression. Students will grapple with the works of Vonnegut in order to discover the real meaning behind his often chaotic texts and as a way to learn more about his satirical, black humor.

American Literature: Western Literature

The American West has a mythical status in our culture due entirely to the images created by writers and film makers. In this class we will look at the ways in which these cultural products shape our view of history and the appropriate roles of men and women in the world.

American Literature: Women Writers

For this class, students will catch a glimpse of the wealth of American women writers from the end of the 17th Century until the present. We will read for enjoyment but we will also look at the portrayals, roles and history of women at different times in the United States. We will read longer works by Tabitha Tenney (*Female Quixotism*), Fanny Fern (*Ruth Hall*), Dorothy Parker (Short Stories and Poetry), and Laurie Anderson (*Speak*). Students will read two novels and some shorter works with the class and complete an in-depth study of an author, region or time period. Along with the readings and some writing, the class will also have a speech component – specifically focusing on Socratic Seminars, short research presentations, teaching a lesson and presenting a project.

American Literature: Women’s Lives/Women’s Voices

This course will be based on the voices of women in literature, film, music and performance. We will examine this issue from a multicultural perspective, studying the works of women such as Toni Morrison, Sandra Cisneros, Amy Tan and Adrienne Rich. This course will be replete with ideas and interpretation.

American Literature: Zora Neale Hurston

Some saw her as an audacious African-American writer with little respect for her fellow man, while others saw her as a woman passionate about the expression of truth. You decide for yourself. Novelist, poetess, anthropologist, folklorist, essayist and playwright – Zora Neale Hurston was a woman who expressed herself through many genres. We will get to know Zora through reading a variety of her works including: her well-known novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, articles and essays on such topics as voodoo, politics and southern Black folklore, short stories and more. This course involves weekly in-class book clubs, creative writing, literary analysis, class discussions, a short research project on the Harlem Renaissance, and other reading/writing opportunities.

American Literature II: Independent Study

In this independent study students will select a region or author of focus.

Chicano/a Literature

Through novels, short stories, and poetry, this class will explore topics of Chicano/a literature. We will use this period as a way to relate to Chicano/a culture and history. Going as far back as the Mexican-American War through the Chicano movement of the 1960s, we will use this history to create a basis for the literature we will read. You will be able to relate this literature to the same experiences, political movements, and social activism students just like yourself participated in during this period. Authors we will study include Gary Soto and Sandra Cisneros.

Children's Literature and Folklore

Have you ever considered writing children's books? Do you enjoy reading adolescent literature? Do you want to work with children? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you should take this course. The course will focus on choosing and analyzing literature from a multicultural perspective, reading to children, and writing and illustrating books for children. Students will actually create and construct a book for a child. There will be lots of opportunity for creativity!

Classic Literature of Mystery and Suspense:

How do authors create mystery and suspense that keeps you on the edge of your seat? The focus of this class will examine the essential elements of creating mystery and suspense. This class will explore the genre of mystery through plays by Agatha Christie and Joseph Kesserling along with shorter works by Edgar Allen Poe and Joyce Carol Oates. We will read plays and short stories, watch films and clips, reenact scenes in groups, and do some creative writing.

Comedy Works!

Explore the comedic subgenres that spurred the writing styles of *The Onion* and shows such as *The Simpsons*, *South Park* and Jon Stewart's *The Daily Show*. In works such as Shakespear's *Titus Andronicus*, Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* and Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, we learn something profound about ourselves and the world we live in through a dark comedic lens. Discover and experiment using the powerful techniques of irony, satire, and dark humor in short fiction, long fiction, periodicals, film, and television.

Creating 'Zines

Since the invention of the printing press in the sixteenth century, every day people have created pamphlets to spread information or entertainment. In today's culture, these underground publications are called Zines. Zines are hand-made, photocopied works of art which are limited only by the author's creativity. In this class, we will discover the different genres of Zines, and design our own publications in the forms of personal narrative, interview, and research/information. Students will learn about the writing process through creating Zines, and revise one of their publications for a final project.

Creative Writing

Writing can be a powerful form of communication if properly executed. It is often the more subtle techniques that make the strongest statements. In order to properly apply these techniques to our own writing, it is essential to first study the "masters" and then break-away into individual experimentation. Therefore, during this course we will first read pieces by various authors to distinguish how and why they implement particular strategies and then bring those strategies and techniques into our creative realm. We will be working in both poetry and prose forms.

Debate and Argument

In this class students will learn to define their arguments on a wide range of issues that matter to them. This involves clarifying the position, developing supporting evidence, identifying counter arguments, and finding evidence to refute the other side. Students will also learn how to conduct discussions and debates that respect those with different opinions and maintain relationship between people who disagree. The emphasis will be on developing the speaking and listening skills that will help you in school, politics, work, and life.

Foundations of Writing (Comp.)

This class introduces students to writing. Students will explore different forms of writing, strengthen their basic organizational and grammatical skills, and have a chance to find an effective, authentic writing voice.

Although all students will need to complete many of the same assignments, writers will generate their own unique topics. Students will strive to make their writing as clear as possible in order to have the best chance of communicating.

History of US Film: 1930's (Comp.)

This class will look at historical events in the 30's which had an impact on the American film industry, as well as the impact the film industry had on society. The class will examine the genres that were prevalent in the 1930's. Every week, we will view a different movie displaying aspects of the culture at the time and illustrating the various genres. Students will learn to analyze film and will write critically about it.

History of U.S. Film: Film Directors (Comp.)

In this class our focus will be great directors and their work. We will examine the craft and art of film making through the works of such directors as Woody Allen, Spike Lee, Martin Scorsese, Steven Spielberg, Federico Fellini, Bernardo Bertolucci, Ingmar Bergman, and others. We will learn about the draw and charisma of great a film and how each director creates his/her own particular style. Students will be expected to critique and analyze films in class, as well as watch them for homework. Written essays are required.

History of U.S. Film: Overview (Comp.)

Film is one way in which history is recorded. In this course we will examine how film has changed throughout history and how it reflects or distorts reality. We will study the history of American film making from the invention of the first recorded images to the expansive variety of films available for us to view today. In class we will view important films and documentaries, focus on specific genre, and movements in film-making and examine the work of significant actors and directors. Much of the class time will include viewing and discussing the films, but students will be expected to watch films at home as well. Written essays are required.

Humanities

In this course, we will focus on how culture is created. Through art, literature, music, and film we will examine how humans make meaning of their existence and their experiences, personally and socially. Students should expect to keep their minds open to a variety of experiences through a variety of media. We will also look at how art, literature, music, and film intersect to create meaning.

Introduction to Debate, Argument and Negotiation

This class will give students the opportunity to learn and practice the various skills of oral communication. Learn how to advocate for yourself and your point of view while not offending, annoying or otherwise upsetting your audience.

Just Read

Just Read classes are designed to bridge the transition from middle school to high school Language Arts classes. The focus is always on books with high student interest. The courses promote lively discussion, and seek to build enthusiasm for the art of reading. The courses do not include enough writing to meet a Composition requirement.

Just Read: Banned Books (American Lit)

In this class we will look at books that have been banned or censored and the controversy surrounding this topic. Other forms of banning/censorship will be explored along with the implications for students here and elsewhere.

Just Read: The Best of the 20th Century (American Lit.)

We will read a selection of novels and short stories that represent the best writing of the 20th century. Students will be able to pick their own books to read within this theme. Students will also be required to read some assigned texts.

Just Read: Books to Film (American Lit.)

In this class we will look at literature and film and the art of adapting books into screenplays. We will study the difficulties that lie in adapting a book to film. We will also look at how stories are changed, based on

setting, characters, events, style, and the point of view from which the story is told. The major project involves reading a book of choice and analyzing the film made from the book. You will be expected to create a 45-minute presentation of the book and film for the class.

Just Read: Genre Class (American Lit.)

In this class students will learn about different genres and how to read simply for the fun of it. This class will focus on eight or nine specific genres over the course of nine weeks. Students will also be reading a novel throughout the course. Journal writing related to the book and short stories will be expected.

Just Read: Lord of the Rings (World Lit.)

We will read *The Fellowship of the Ring* as a class and then students will read on in J.R.R. Tolkien's series, *The Lord of the Rings*. We will also compare Tolkien's writing style to other fantasy authors. This class will provide students with a variety of reading strategies and vocabulary development activities. It is preferred that students have read *The Hobbit* prior to the start of this class.

Just Read: Lord of the Rings – Return of the Ring (World Lit)

In this class we will read *The Return of the Ring*, the final conclusion to JRR Tolkien's famous series, the Lord of the Rings, as well as other works by Tolkien. We will also take a more in-depth look at Tolkien himself and influences on his books. It is highly recommended that all students have read (not just seen the movies) both *The Fellowship of the Ring* **and** *The Two Towers* prior to the start of the class.

Just Read: Mystery, Crime, and Video

This class will allow students to explore authors from around the world with mystery and crime/detective stories. Students will also learn the basics of video production, and for their final projects, make movie adaptations of their favorite stories.

Just Read: Personal Narratives (American Lit.)

We will read various biographical stories, personal narratives and published journals exploring the personal views and ideas of individuals and their place in their culture. Students will choose the authors and books they wish to read within this theme. We will also read assigned pieces for class discussions.

Just Read: Rites of Passage (American Lit.)

We will read about youth in different cultures, time periods, and settings. Students will be able to pick their own books to read within this theme. Students will also be required to read some assigned texts.

Just Read : Science Fiction and Fantasy

Students will read *The Golden Compass* by Phillip Pullman as a class. Students will then have a choice to read on in the Dark Materials series or choose from other sci-fi/fantasy classics. The focus is to improve reading comprehension, inference, and reading rate skills.

Just Read: Tolkein (World Lit.)

We will read *The Hobbit* as a class and investigate its influence on other authors.

Just Read: Western Women Authors (American Lit.)

This course will explore the work of Willa Cather and Katherine Anne Porter. Through short stories and novels, we will examine the characteristics that define their styles and subjects, their purposes, and their impact. Expect to do some writing as well as reading.

Just Read: Wilderness Literature (American Lit.)

This class will read a variety of stories about the idea of the wilderness and how this idea has changed over time. Students will be able to pick their own books to read within this theme. Students will also be required to read some assigned texts.

Literature of Central Asia

We will get a glimpse of the little known nation of Afghanistan through Khaled Hosseini's novel, The Kite Runner. The novel spans thirty-five turbulent years of recent Afghan history and addresses issues of friendship, betrayal, class conflict, sexual aggression, and reconciliation. Along with this rich novel we will read poetry and other texts from this region that offer relevance and meaning to our own lives here thousands of miles away.

Lost Voice of the 19th Century

In this course, students will get a chance to study some underrepresented authors and poets of the 19th century. The class will attempt to create on-line resources for those who wish to study some of these lost voices. The class will incorporate technology and strive to push students to become more proficient with computers, software, and the internet. (Also counts towards Applied Technology)

Miracles and Monstrosities: Science and Literature

Scientific progress has been the source of our greatest hopes and fears. This course will explore both, through the classic novel, *Frankenstein*, the poetry and painting of early 1900's Paris in response to new industrial technologies, and will conclude with the novel, *Feed*, that explores the possibilities of implanting the Internet in people's brains. This will be an unusual ride through science, literature, painting, and history.

Myths and Modern Times

How do myths such as the tragic Greek Orpheus or the Egyptian Osiris influence us today? Find out how these myths have evolved into underground movements as well as popular culture like Moulin Rouge and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. This course will also explore whether these myths are important to us today, what they have to do with religion and how myths affect society.

Performance Poetry

Students will explore spoken word poetry through studying performance poets including Saul Williams, Willie Perdomo, Tupac Shakur, and Sonia Sanchez, as well as observing local performing artists. In addition, students will analyze popular hip-hop music. The course will focus on reading and listening to performance work, as well as writing/performing original work. Students will participate in poetry jams and slams. Literature, film, and technology will be incorporated. Performance is a requirement of this course.

Persuasive Speaking and Debate

How do you convince someone to agree with you? Do you simply tell them you're right, or do you make them believe they are wrong? Your best bet is to use a variety of logical techniques to change people's minds. In this class you will learn skills in speaking persuasively for impact. You will practice a series of public speaking exercises, activities, speeches and debates to master the fine art of persuasion. We will also participate in a group form of debate called "student congress", in which you will have to defend your opinions against a group of your peers. Hopefully, after completing this class, you will have the tools necessary to be a better speaker and a more powerful persuader.

Playwrights and Performance

Are you on your way to the New York stage or Hollywood screen? Or are you just interested in finding out more about drama? This course will introduce students to some of the world's finest playwrights and allow students the opportunity to perform monologues and scenes from plays and TV shows. Students will also gain a deeper understanding of themselves through theater games and improvisation. Students will be expected to perform in front of the class.

Poetry Workshop

Students will write poetry from exercises derived from the works of published poets, as well as examine and critique the work of both published poets and classmates.

Public Speaking

This course is designed to encourage students to be more comfortable creating and delivering a speech. Students will gain valuable experience in research, organization of data, speaking to a specific audience and relaxing when speaking in public. Students will also learn how to select and cut literature for dramatic presentation. Interested students have the option of participating in the National Forensics League, which involves being a member of the speech team and participating in speech meets. Students selecting this course will be expected to present their best speech of the class to students, faculty, parents and friends during Speech Night. They will also be expected to attend and participate in one competitive speaking meet, which are held on Saturdays.

Readers' Workshop

This course is designed for the student who has had difficulty with reading and wants to improve his/her reading skills. This will be an individualized program based on individual needs.

Reading Strategies

No matter what lies in your future, reading will always be a part of it. This course will focus on methods to help you get more out of reading. You can learn how to read faster, how to read for deeper meaning, how to stay focused on what you are reading and how to be more efficient with your reading time. This is a course for every kind of reader, no matter what your skill level. You will be able to choose your own reading material and the course will be designed around your needs. If you have a desire to improve your reading skills, you will see improvement from the strategies taught during this course.

Socratic Seminar (Lit. and Comp.)

In these classes we will read a variety of short texts and discuss them using the process of Socratic seminars. Weekly writing assignments will be the basis for students' grades.

Socratic Seminar: Poetry (Lit. and Comp.)

Did you ever wish you could romance someone with a fantastic poem? In this class students develop a repertoire of poems, as well as listen to other peoples' favorites. Students will memorize poems and work on interpretation, as well as become familiar with classic and current poetry.

Socratic Seminar: Poetry (also called Poetry and Performance)

Screenwriting

How does one write most effectively when the words will be used in film? This class explores what it is like to write directly for film.

Shakespeare's Princes: Hal and Hamlet

Written two years apart, Shakespeare reflected on the role of fathers and sons in Henry IV, Part One and Hamlet. Prince Hal is humorous, moody, sneaky, and loyal; everything a good son should be. Hamlet follows suit. We will be playing out scenes in class, exploring the history of the era, and looking at the pieces in terms of Shakespeare's personal life and experience, especially with regard to his son Hamnet

US Literature: Immigration Stories

The U. S. is often described as a country of immigrants, but U. S. immigration has had a very complex relationship with the "American Dream." This class will explore the diverse experiences of U. S. immigrants through stories, poetry, essays, and film. We will examine questions of language, culture, community, and family; and reflect on our own experiences of identity and belonging. Students will develop both creative and analytical responses to the readings.

Verbal Review

Preparation and review for the P/SAT. Priority will be given to 11th graders.

Video Literacy

Ever wonder if you're being manipulated by the media you watch? Ever wonder if they're telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth? In this class you will become a critical viewer of video, TV and film, learning how to get absorbed but keep your perspective. This class will involve lots of watching, but also lots of discussion, reading and writing about our watching experiences.

Video Poetry

See description under Applied Technology

Women Playwrights

Some of the most creative, interesting, and wonderful theatrical writers around the world have been women, yet many of them remain unknown. We will be reading plays about criminals, thieves, the conflict between upper- and lower-class, politics, fantasy, and language. We will also experiment by writing short pieces based on the style of the plays read. Works include *Cloud 9* by Caryl Churchill, *Top Dog, Under Dog* by Suzan-Lori Parks, and *Our Country's Good* by Timberlake Wertenbaker.

Women's Literature and Video

See description under Applied Technology

World Literature-A (Asia, Europe and the Middle East) (World Lit. and Comp.)

This class will provide students with tastes of literature from around the world and opportunities to pursue their interests. Students will have a chance to study in groups, on their own, and with the entire class. For their final project, they will study a region/country of their choosing. (These "A" and "B" sections can be taken in any order or alone.)

World Literature-B (Africa, Australia, The Americas) (World Lit. and Comp.)

This class will provide students with tastes of literature from around the world and opportunities to pursue their interests. Students will have a chance to study in groups, on their own, and with the entire class. For their final project, they will study a region/country of their choosing. (These "A" and "B" sections can be taken in any order or alone.)

World Literature: African Studies

In this class, students will catch a glimpse of the wealth of history and literature of the African continent. We will put the authors and their works into context by studying history, and we will enhance the history by studying literature from the many cultures of Africa. There will be a great deal of flexibility in how this class is taught--sometimes you will focus on just history, other times you will focus on just literature, and sometimes the two will be closely linked.

World Literature: African/Middle Eastern Literature

Discover the great literature of these regions of the world. We will read, discuss and write about novels, short stories and essays.

World Literature: Allegory

Sometimes a story isn't just a story. Derived from the Greek for "other reading", the term "allegory" refers to a system of symbolic story telling, a form of extended metaphor, which often conveys a veiled moral meaning. This class will look at symbolic stories and look at why writers use symbols and tell stories indirectly. As a class, we will read Richard Adams's *Watership Down*, and some shorter allegorical pieces, as well as watch films in an attempt to train ourselves to read things on different levels.

World Literature: Asian Short Stories

In this class we will sample short stories from across the Asian continent and across the modern era.

World Literature: Asian Literature

For this class, students will catch a glimpse of the wealth of short fiction, poetry and prose from Asia. We will focus on India, Japan and China, but we will also read selections from Korea, Pakistan and elsewhere. The class will attempt to put the authors and their works into context to further understanding by studying relevant history.

World Literature: Authors Named William

This class will cover some important works of William Shakespeare, William Blake and William Wordsworth. The class will focus on analysis and literary criticism. Several short papers and a final project will be required.

World Literature: The Bible as Literature

This course is designed to provide a general introduction to the study of the Bible as a piece of literature. For educational purposes, the Bible will be studied as a fascinating human document of enormous importance to the culture and history of the modern world, a document that speaks to humans about their humanity. Its contents evolved and came together as a result of activity by real people living in actual places over a period of more than a thousand years; people subject to all the influences on culture. With this in mind, we will explore the stories, legends, history, prophecies, law, and drama of this fascinating book.

World Literature: British Literature I (Medieval to Restoration)

In this course we will read extensively from some of the most important literary works of English writers, as well as study European culture and history. We will begin with Anglo-Saxon and Medieval literature and extend our study through the early 1800's. Some of the topics and writers we will study include Chaucer's

Canterbury Tales, *The Legend of King Arthur*, a play by Shakespeare, and readings from Jonathan Swift and Milton. Expand your knowledge of the great literary works through this course.

World Literature: British Literature II (The Romantics and the Novelists)

Studying these authors will expand your perspective on the impact and influence of literature on culture. The focus will be on the Romantic poets such as Wordsworth, Shelly, and Keats, who wrote about topics such as nature, the metaphysical, and how the individual fits into society. We will also study the effects of the rule of Queen Victoria on European society by reading the works of authors such as Tennyson, Oscar Wilde, the Brownings, and the mysterious tales of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle and his eccentric detective, Sherlock Holmes. We will also study 20th Century writers and the evolution of the novel in the late 1800's. This course is a continuation of British Literature I, but students need not have taken British Literature I to enroll in this course.

World Literature: Culture and the Struggle for Power: Literature of Colonization

Why does one culture decide to colonize another? What happens to the primary culture when it is forced to adapt to a new ruler? How does colonization influence the social norms of the primary culture? What are the positive and negative sides to a change like this? And what happens to the colonizing culture? These are some of the questions we will attempt to answer for ourselves through this course. We will examine factual and fictional texts, including novels, essays, films and art, in order to give us a broader understanding from which to draw our conclusions. Since colonization is an extensive topic, we will focus most of our study around the cultures indigenous to the Western Hemisphere.

World Literature: Dangerous Writers

Did you know that a book can cause a revolution? This course will take you on a journey through the twist and turns of the taboo; of the writing that culture has deemed dangerous or deviant because it goes against the culture of the time. Students will be reading literature from writers such as Karl Marx, Vladimir Lenin, and Charles Darwin. In this class, we will examine the meanings of these texts and take a closer look at that literature that has scared culture.

World Literature: Dante

Journey with Dante, the poet and pilgrim, through Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. This medieval epic poem stands as a timeless piece of literature. The class will read the entire *Divine Comedy* together; it will be the focus of discussions, seminars, and writing and projects. The class will look at philosophical questions Dante poses on God, Love and Order in the universe.

World Literature: Dickens

We will be reading Charles Dickens' lengthy masterpiece *Great Expectations* and relating it to the allures of urban life during the Industrial Revolution. In an effort to further understand his work, students will learn about Dickens' life and read a few of his essays. Students will teach a lesson of their own, write two papers (one creative and one analytic), and become involved in classroom projects, debates and discussions.

World Literature: English Romanticism

Our class will focus on reading the literature of the English Romantics. William Blake, William and Dorothy Wordsworth, Percy and Mary Shelley, Lord Byron, John Keats, Charlotte Smith and many more will be studied in depth. We will discuss the main ideas from this period and connect them to our world today. Where does fantasy meet reality? What is "man's" connection with the world around him? How do we create reality in our minds? The Romantics struggled with these ideas and so will we.

World Literature: European Short Stories

For this class, students will begin to explore the wealth of short fiction from Europe. We will start in the West and move East--to maintain some sort of organization. The class will attempt to put the authors and their works into context to further understanding by studying relevant history. This class will refine your analytical reading and writing skills.

World Literature: Existentialism and Literature

In a seemingly irrational universe, how are we to make sense of death and suffering? What is our responsibility to others and ourselves in light of such dreadful indifference? What did Kierkegaard mean when he asked, "What is truth, but to live for an idea?" In this class, we will explore how these questions, along with their answers, have been portrayed in existentialist literature. In particular, we will be focusing on the optimistic and empowering nature of existentialist answers to the problems that we face. Nietzsche, Dostoevsky, Kafka, Camus, Sartre and De Beauvoir, amongst others will be explored.

World Literature: Existentialism and Theater

In this course we will explore the meaning of the philosophy that questions meaning – existentialism. Through existential writers such as Camus and Sartre and the existential absurdist theater of Beckett and Stoppard, we will ask ourselves the questions they asked: Does life have meaning? Should it? Is the essence of life absurdity? What truth can we find in Sartre's statement that 'Man is condemned to be free'?

World Literature: Exploring Social Issues – The Graphic Novel

Not your grandmother's comic books, the Graphic Novel has emerged as both a literary genre and an art form that has captured the attention and interest of teenage readers. It offers a diverse alternative to traditional texts, requires complex cognitive skills and can be used as an accessible means to interpret literature. The scope and diversity of the graphic novel include sophisticated subject matter, including nonfiction, biography, and compelling narratives. This unit will focus on four contemporary graphic novels including *Maus I and II*, a Holocaust survivor's story; *The Pride of Baghdad*, a historical fiction based on life in a war zone; and *American Born Chinese*, a young adult narrative about race, identity, and self-acceptance. There will also be excerpts from *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* and *The Arrival*, a story of an immigrant in a new country. The course will focus on the author's use of literary conventions and will include a summative project where students create their own Graphic Novel

World Literature: Fantasy Fiction

This course will attempt to define the genre of fantasy fiction within literature. We will look at fantasy in film, short stories, and in the novel *The Hobbit*. We will examine some of the societal issues that arise from fantasy fiction: the need to create "other" worlds, misfits and outcasts, magic and fantasy among other topics. The overall objective is for students to be able to identify fantasy fiction from among other genres of literature.

World Literature: French Avant Garde Culture: 1890 – 1918

This course will look at a variety of artists who helped to share 20th century values, cultures and perceptions. We will study drama, painting, poetry and music, and the way that these disciplines interact. There will be weekly writing assignments, as well as creative activities modeled on the works of the artists that we study. A partial list includes Gertrude Stein, Alfred Jarry, Pablo Picasso, Henri Rousseau, and Guillaume Apollinaire. All the literature for the course will be taught using English translations.

World Literature: French Painting, Poetry, and Plays

At the turn of the 20th century, Paris became the center of Bohemian life: edgy, creative, and pushing boundaries. Great painters such as Picasso, Matisse, and Delauney were changing the culture of the world. Poets such as Apollinaire turned poems into paintings, and the playwright, Alfred Jarry created outrageous and scandalous plays for Paris stages. In this class we will look at the relationship of the arts and these artists towards one another and how they changed the way we see the world today. We will also look at some of the cutting edge artists of today's world and how they have been affected by these French masters.

World Literature: Gothic and Horror Literature

Dank corridors, subterranean dungeons, walking skeletons and a maiden's scream. Is that it? Is Gothic literature all about shock value? In part, yes. Many writers of Gothic fiction were exploring our natural curiosity about the dark side. But, a deeper purpose may lie behind these tales of supernatural encounters and evil forces. Together, we will unveil the possibilities. We will focus primarily on the Early Gothic tradition (1762-1824) but will also explore the evolution of Gothic literature up through the 20th century. We will analyze the work of several authors including Horace Walpole (the "inventor" of the Gothic), Ann Radcliffe, Lord Byron, Edgar Allan Poe and of course, take a close look at Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

World Literature: Homer's Iliad and Odyssey

Originally oral tales which were probably written down by 800 B.C., Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* have remained classic adventures that people have enjoyed for 2800 years. Love, War, Jealousy, Deception, Gods, Prophets - this isn't Hollywood; it's ancient Greece! These poems will entertain, instruct, raise questions and be the focus of the class.

World Literature: Introduction to the Humanities - Culture and Sense (Literary Analysis)

Music, art and literature are the lenses through which we see and interpret culture. If we look at these artistic mediums we can learn a great deal about the culture and time period in which the piece was created. We also learn a great deal about artists through their reflections on their environments. In this course we will apply a variety of critical theories to artistic media as a way to interpret meaning and analyze ideas.

World Literature: Irish Literature

This course will focus on the literature, culture, and history of Ireland, specifically regarding the conflicts and struggles between Catholics and Protestants and the intertwined British occupation. We will read poetry, short and long fiction, and drama in an attempt to better understand life within conflict.

World Literature: Island Literature

For this class, students will catch a mere glimpse of the wealth of short stories from Island cultures and countries throughout the world-focusing mainly on the Caribbean and the Pacific. The class will center on analyzing and writing about literature and hopefully provide students with different perspectives and interest in some of the history of the regions.

World Literature: *The Kite Runner*: Violence and the Search for Peace

In this course we will explore reading strategies for getting the maximum understanding from the complex novel, *The Kite Runner* by Khaled Hosseini, as we study the culture, customs, traditions, and social system of Afghanistan. Some of the tough issues of the novel include friendship, betrayal, class conflicts, sexual aggression, and reconciliation. Along with this fascinating work, we will read poetry and other short texts that relate not only to Afghanistan, but to the shape and quality of our own lives.

World Literature: Latin American Literature

Latin American Literature transcends the boundaries of genre where poems become political manifestos and fiction becomes reality. Throughout this course students will study the works of fiction, poetry, and prose by particular authors from different areas of Latin America in an attempt to put into context how literature can serve as a historical record of human experiences.

World Literature: Latin American Literature in Translation

See Literature of the Americas

World Literature: Literature at the Turn of the Century

Literature at the turn of the century offers a lush glimpse into the conscience of humanity during a time of tremendous change. Our minds were expanding to explore abstract art, Psychology was a new science, and Charles Darwin was accused of making blasphemous hypotheses on the origins of man. Yet in this period of change, women and children had few human rights, immigrants and minorities faced harsh lives in the city, and there was an undercurrent of repressed emotion and sexuality. In this course we will discuss these issues and many more through major pieces of literature such as *Anna Karenina*, *Ethan Fromm*, *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, as well as read the work of authors such as Charles Dickens, Kate Chopin, and Henry James.

World Literature: Literature of the Americas

In this class students will catch a glimpse of the range and brilliance of written works from Latin America. The course will focus on the literature itself but will also attempt to present the authors and their worlds within their historical and cultural context. We will gain a deeper understanding of the writing through the study of these pieces of history, focusing on the 19th and 20th Centuries. The list of authors will include: Allende, Alvarez, Borges, Cisneros, Garcia-Marquez and Soto.

World Literature: Literature of War

What is war? Through film, writing and literature we will discuss various interpretations of war in this course. From *Anne Frank* to *Johnnie Got His Gun* and *Schindler's List*, we will compare and contrast different styles, tones, and voices that tell non-fictional and fictional stories of war abroad and at home.

World Literature: Major Characters in World Literature

One of the most important components of a good story is a good character. In this course, we'll look at various authors' techniques of character design, development, motivation and how these techniques work to bring life to a story. We will look at major types of characters, historic and legendary characters from literature across time, and try to determine how certain characters can become so unforgettable that people will talk about them decades and even centuries later.

World Lit: Men in Literature

What is the role of men in literature? Are men always the villain? Are men always macho? In this course students will read a variety of texts as a way to understand the role of masculinity in various cultures throughout history by analyzing the role of men in literature.

World Literature: Mythology

Myths are humanity's earliest imaginative efforts to explain the universe, its creation as well as attempts to explain human behavior. In *Mythology*, we will look at figures and events from Greek culture and compare it to myths of other cultures. We will also explore how myths stand the test of time and constantly transform, most noticeably into 'superheroes' of our current time. Assignments include posters of mythological figures as well as personal explorations of how the events of a period affect the telling of myths.

World Literature: Mystery, Crime & Video

This class will allow students to explore authors from around the world, specifically, mystery, crime, and detective story writers. Students will also learn the basics of video production, and for their final project, make movie adaptations of their favorite stories. Also Applied Technology

World Literature: Science Fiction

In this course, we will consider the insight Science Fiction gives into our society, past, present, and future. Centering on *1984* by Orwell, *Brave New World* by Huxley, and *The Handmaid's Tale* by Atwood, we will use our study of the literature to spur exploration of the state of our world, our places in it, and where we all may be headed.

World Literature: Nazi Germany: Literature and History

This team-taught class will focus on learning about both the history and literature of this most important period in world and U.S. history. While the primary emphasis will be the period from 1933-1945, there will also be opportunities for exploring related issues and themes from more recent European history. There will be a great deal of flexibility in how this class is taught - sometimes we will focus on just history, other times we will focus on just literature, and sometimes the two will be closely linked. Students will have the opportunity to earn EITHER Language Arts OR Social Studies credit, depending on the final project chosen.

World Literature: The Outsiders

What does it mean to be a rebel? What aspects of society inspire rebellion? What are the various ways of challenging accepted norms, and which actually lead to change? "Outsider" perspectives offer profound insights and thought-provoking questions about our world. In this class, we will examine expressions of memorable "outsiders" and rebels. Voices heard through literature will be emphasized including Holden Caulfield's *Catcher in the Rye* and *Siddhartha*, as well as the music of Ani Defranco and others. A wide range of perspectives will be included - from those of the critic, to those of the cynic, to those of inspirational leaders of change.

World Literature: Plato

The focus of this class will be the dialogues of Plato, including: the Euthyphro, the Apology, Phaedro, Crito, Symposium, Phaedrus, Meno and parts of the Republic. Students can expect a variety of reading, writing, discussing and Socratic Seminars.

World Literature: Poetry

This class will explore poetic forms and language, from early epics to contemporary open forms and slam. We will learn how—and why—to read a poem and examine the various contexts in which poetry has been written, read, and performed. Students will develop creative and analytic responses to poetry, as well as writing their own verses.

World Literature: Russian Literature

For this class, students will catch a glimpse of the wealth of Russian writing. The class will focus on the stories and issues from the literature, but will occasionally put the authors - including: Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Chekov, and Gogol - and their works into context by studying some Russian history. Students can expect a mixture of poetry, short stories, novels, and films.

World Literature: Satire and Humor

Students will read a variety of shorter works ranging from light-hearted humor to biting satire. The readings will come from both early and modern writers, from Swift and Twain to Thurber, Heller and Vonnegut. The class will look at what Horace called, "telling the truth, laughing." Students will read *Catch-22*, *Candide*, and parts of *Gulliver's Travels*, as well as shorter works.

World Literature: Shakespeare

In this class we will read several major plays. We will study the text as well as create, through scene work, different interpretations of these controversial plays. Students will also choose one additional play to read, as well as Shakespeare's sonnets.

World Literature: Shakespeare (goes to the movies)

This class will look at many of the works of William Shakespeare, as well as the modern movies which have been adapted from the famous plays. We will read the plays very carefully and then watch various films in order to understand even more. We will look at directorial decisions and determine if we thought them wise.

World Literature: Shakespeare's Kings

Revolution, murder, illicit love and the making of English history were performed in Shakespeare's history plays. In this class we will put the English Kings on trial as we follow their lives in some of Shakespeare's greatest plays.

World Literature: Short Stories

Through this class, I intend to introduce students a wide range authors from around the world. Too many stories exist for one class to read together, but hopefully each student will leave the class with a deeper understanding of what's out there and a desire to keep reading. I have a few goals for this course: to keep you interested in reading or get you back into it; to help you improve as students of English, specifically in the areas of reading, critical thinking, speaking and writing, and to introduce you some talented writers.

World Literature: Surrealism

At the end of World War I the intellectual community of Europe was distraught at the destruction. The Age of Reason and the advancement of technology had not led to Utopia but instead to death. Forming out of the fragments of the Dadaist movement, the Surrealists sought to destroy logic and reason by inventing methods based on the Automatic, Dreams and the primitive. In this course we will become practicing surrealists, using their techniques to create texts, art and manifestos. Of course, we will also read, view and analyze a variety of surrealist sources

World Literature: A Survey of Postmodern Poetry

This course will delve into American and European poetry from the last 50 years, starting with the Beats and moving on to the New York School Poets, L=A=N=G=U=A=G=E Poets, and ending up with contemporary movements in the art of poesy. By viewing videos and listening to archival material, we will be able to experience the poems firsthand and compare the performance with the page. Our principle text will be Paul Hoover's Postmodern Anthology of Poetry.

World Literature: Theories of Personality

This class will introduce students to a variety of ways of understanding what makes people the people they are. We will be drawing on psychological sources materials as well as looking at characters in literature.

World Literature: Timeless Greek and Roman Classics

This course focuses on Ancient Greek and Roman society and the classical literary works of Homer, Sophocles, and Ovid as backgrounds and foundations that tie into modern western culture and literature.

World Literature: The Quest

Seeking to find oneself, the meaning of life, or that which is holy, is a theme of literature across cultures and across time. In this class we will examine a variety of questing stories in order to better understand this genre and its connection to our own lives.

World Literature: Utopian Literature

The class will consist of writings, discussion and activities related to Utopian and Dystopian Literature. The class will examine several authors' ideas and discuss the possibility of perfecting society. Anticipated Readings include but are not limited to: *We* by Y. Zamyatin, *1984* by George Orwell, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, *Herland* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman, *Utopia* by Sir Thomas More, and others.

World Literature: Video Production

See description under Applied Technology

World Literature: Voices of Feminism

We will begin with feminism in the 90's and go back in time. We will look at expressions of feminism mainly through literature and essays, including short works by Helen Cixous, Alice Walker, Virginia Woolf, George Eliot, Sojourner Truth and many others.

World Literature: Writing About Art

This class looks to practice the process of interpreting visual art in a manner that is much like the way in which we interpret literature. By reading critiques of visual art by philosophers, art historians, artists and literary authors, we will attempt to develop our own abilities to critically analyze through articulated writing, masterpieces from around the world. This class stresses the importance of an interpretive mind and the student's ability to clearly convey his/her analysis of visual art to others.

World Literature: Victor Hugo

In this class we will explore the writing of Victor Hugo, French author of the 19th century best known for his masterpiece, *Les Miserables*.

World Literature/Video Production

See description under Applied Technology

World Literature: World Drama

This will be a literature class that studies plays from dramatic traditions around the world. There will be some scene work and reader's theater, but count on plenty of reading and writing.

World Literature: Youth Around the World

During this course we will focus our readings, writings and discussions on the issues that youth face. We will examine the similarities and differences between the youth of various cultures, both past and present.

World Literature and Theater Production: One-Act Plays - Page and Stage

In this class we will read several outstanding influential one-act plays from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including works by Anton Chekhov and Eugene Ionesco. We will also study writers of dramatic theory – Stanislavsky and Artaud – who have fundamentally influenced theatrical production in the 20th Century. The class will mix performance and study, culminating with in-class performances of modern and contemporary one-act plays. People interested in directing are encouraged to enroll. There will be a one-day field trip to the DCPA which involves a \$16.00 fee. (Subsidies provided if necessary.) Language Arts or Arts credit

World Literature 2: Independent Study

In this independent study students will select a region or author of focus.

NOTE: All **Writers' Workshops** have a major emphasis on composition. Some focus exclusively on writing genres; others approach writing with a joint emphasis on literature and composition. The latter courses are identified as such.

Writers' Workshop: American Music

The genre of American music includes such diverse forms as jazz, blues, and rock and roll in all its historical and contemporary forms. These styles have spawned everything from The Ramones to JayZ. Using the rich backdrop of American music as a starting point, students will explore both new and familiar artists and genres. The types of writing in this class will include: poetry, essay and a research paper

Writers' Workshop: American Nature Writing (American Lit. and Comp.)

The American landscape has had a profound effect on our national identity. In this course we will read a wide variety of writers who contemplated that landscape. Simultaneously, we will refine and explore our own relationship to our environment through creative writing, reading, and analysis. Authors include: Thoreau, Emerson, Snyder, Terry Tempest Williams, and Edward Abbey.

Writers' Workshop : Blogs

See description under Applied Technology

Writers' Workshop: College Writing

In this class students will learn the skills of college writing: writing short answer essays (blue book exams), writing research papers, and writing short analysis papers.

Writers' Workshop: Comp. II

This class is for students who have already completed Foundations of Writing and at least one Writer's Workshop. The goal is to further improve and refine writing skills across a variety of genres. Expect detailed feedback and intense revisions.

Writers Workshop: Crafting the Perfect Essay

We all need to (and sometimes want) to write an essay to communicate our ideas about ourselves, life, art, nature, politics – you name it. Sometimes the essay is for school, for a magazine, or an application for an award, financial aid, or college. Whenever the occasion arises, you need to do the job well. In this class you will read examples of great essays on a wide range of topics and learn why they work. Then you will get to craft your own and really polish the skill of getting your ideas across to a wide range of readers.

Writer's Workshop: Creative Writing Workshop

A variety of genres will be explored in this course including function, non-fiction, science fiction, memoirs, magical realism, pardsies, fantasy, poetry, and literary criticism. Students will also explore professional writing applications such as resumes, editorials, music/book/film reviews, and web logs. Reading and writing will function together in this course and publication opportunities will be available.

Writer's Workshop: Culinary Composition

This course is designed to give you exposure to and practice in writing about all things food—the methods for preparation, the recipes, the restaurants, and the entire gamut of the gustatory experience. We'll write essays, reviews, recipes and various treatises on the wonders of the culinary world. Appetite required. Prerequisite: Foundations of Writing

Writers' Workshop: Dickens (World Lit and Comp)

In this class we will venture down the dark, gritty streets of 19th century London, listen to the stories of children subjected to extreme child labor, and see the exuberant lives of the wealthy upper class through the perspective of Charles Dickens. Dickens' colorful characters and fantastical plots present a unique view of Victorian England. We will explore Victorian culture and values through Dickens' short stories, and novels such as *A Tale of Two Cities*, *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol*, as well as film adaptations of his work.

Writers' Workshop: Defying the Norm (American Lit. and Comp.)

This class focuses on developing students' writing skills while studying texts that have criticized and shaped our world. Students will practice the writing process and Six Traits writing through myriad in-class and formal written assignments. Throughout the quarter students will create a portfolio of polished writing to be submitted at the end of the quarter. In reading, we will be examining authors who defied the norms of writing and society such as Jane Austen, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Herman Melville, Toni Morrison and William Shakespeare. We will discuss the role of writers in society using both students' work and the texts we read.

Writers' Workshop: Dr Seuss

Students will read the celebrated works of Dr. Seuss (*The Cat in the Hat*, *The Lorax*, *To Think That I Saw it on Mulberry Street*, etc.), look at criticism, do some research and write four original works of their own, one of which would be for children. We will share our new found appreciation for the depth of this work with elementary school students in the community.

Writers' Workshop: Essays

We will read and write a variety of non-fiction prose pieces, working together to learn how to write effectively and to produce excellent essays. We will publish our best work.

Writers' Workshop: Essays II

Essays II provides the next step for students who are prepared and eager to undertake more challenging levels of non-fiction reading and writing. A passing grade in a previous course that emphasizes extensive work in non-fiction writing (e.g., Essays, Just Write) is a prerequisite. In addition, students should be comfortable with sharing their writing with other students, obtaining meaningful critiques on their writing, and undertaking significant revisions of their writing. The reading, writing, vocabulary, and work will be commensurate with post-secondary expectations.

Writer's Workshop: Excellent Essay

Essay skills are important components to everyday life by allowing practitioners to develop critical thinking skills. This class will help you master the art of the essay: what it is, how it works, why it works, how to write it, and how to transfer the skills to the rest of your life.

Writers' Workshop: Experiential Writing

This is a class in which you will go places, do things and then reflect on the experience by putting words to the page. This is a great place to practice writing skills and improve your ability to find ways to say what you mean.

Writers' Workshop: Expository Writing

Learn the skills involved in clearly stating what you know and think about topics, problems, and issues in the world and in your classes.

Writers' Workshop: First Person Accounts

This workshop will provide students with an outlet for writing the stories of their lives while also working on their technical, grammatical writing skills. Students will read the works of published authors as well as create their own work. Intrapersonal credit can also be awarded.

Writers' Workshop: Grammar

In this class students will get a chance to focus on the mechanics of writing so that they can clearly express their ideas and opinions. The pursuit of grammatical skills will take place in the context of meaningful writing.

Writers Workshop--Hip Hop Culture

In this course students will gain an understanding of the meaning behind the lyrics in hip hop and rap music. They will begin to discover their own voice through exploring the varied voices and poetry that Hip Hop culture represents.

Writers' Workshop: Life Stories (World Lit and Comp)

In this class we will read biographical and autobiographical pieces, memoirs and character sketches of a wide variety of individuals whose lives have been recorded. The writing focus will be on crafting similar pieces about ourselves or others in whom students are interested.

Writers' Workshop: Just Write A and B

This class is designed to help all students improve their writing through guided practice. A final grade will be given at the end of the quarter, although students are welcome to take the class for two quarters.

Writers' Workshop: Life Stories

In this class we will read biographical and autobiographical pieces, memoirs, and character sketches of a wide variety of individuals whose lives have been recorded. The writing focus will be on crafting similar pieces about ourselves or others in whom students are interested.

Writers' Workshop: Magazines

This class is for anyone who has always wanted to write about what's interesting to them. Dance, sports, video game, art, music, graffiti, cars, sexual health, equity, math? So long as it's legal and fits with New Vista values you can create your own magazine full of articles, short notes, editorials, political cartoons, interviews, in fact all the forms of writing that make up contemporary magazines.

Writers' Workshop: Mocking the News (Journalism)

This course will give students the opportunity to engage in the many different writing situations found in newspapers. Students will be responsible for writing editorials, constructing advertisements and cartoons, writing critiques of art and music, doing some investigative reports, and other aspects related to the newspaper.

WW: Writing About Music

Through a variety of readings, performances, and discussions, you will enhance your knowledge surrounding the different genres of music, and develop your writing skills. Each day we will learn new terminology, associated with music, and then listen to examples to help us define its meaning. Through four projects you will be able to explore and express what it is you love about music. Be prepared for a lot of reading, writing, and listening.

Writers' Workshop: Narratives

Students will learn to tell a coherent story that has a beginning, middle and end in both fiction and non-fiction. The emphasis will be on organizational strategies that help the reader truly grasp the meaning.

Writers' Workshop: News Writing (Journalism)

Where do you get your news? If you're like many Americans your age, you turn to the *Onion*, John Stewart's *Daily Show* or Jay Leno. As funny as these news sources are, did you ever wish for something more? In this course we'll examine the field of journalism and the world of newspapers and learn the habits of news junkies and newshounds. We'll look at stories and editorials on current events and the arts and write many of our own news stories.

Writers' Workshop: Observation and Experience

This course will focus on reading and writing about things we can observe or have experienced in the world that surrounds us. We will read short pieces from professionals writing about topics such as outdoor adventures, travel, movies or television, food and other cultural happenings and events. Based on our own experiences and adventures, informal research, and interviews with other individuals, we will write our own pieces describing, reviewing, critiquing and making sense of specific aspects of or events in the world around us.

Writers' Workshop: Organized Crime

Improve your writing and work in different genres. Students will write a research paper, short fiction, and film reviews – all revolving around the topic of organized crime.

Writers' Workshop: Poetry Workshop (English and/or Spanish)

In this class students will explore the world of poetic expression and create their own pieces. Because the teacher this quarter is bi-lingual students will have the opportunity to work in either English or Spanish, or both.

WW: Poets, Preachers, and Politicians

"Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." Who said that? In this course, we will examine samples from history of the oral tradition. Students will learn different methods for speaking, the reasons for speaking, and the components of speech. Students will be asked to present speeches from speakers such as Barack Obama, Maya Angelou, John F Kennedy, and Harvey Milk. We will delve into the meaning of the words we say as individuals and as a culture.

Writing Workshop: Political Activism for Social Change

Through writing and research, this class will explore many political and social issues that are affecting the world we live in. These issues will range from local to global, including third-world hunger, environmental responsibility, and animal rights. We will research topics as a class, but you will have the opportunity to research an issue that interests you and will use that issue to write for a variety of audiences to encourage positive change. Your work will culminate in a final project that will require independent research to create interesting and provocative expository writing.

Writers' Workshop: Political Writing

We will examine the history of political writing from the early days of pamphlets, broadsides and early newspapers through the present, with most of our time spent on the recent examples. Students will learn the art and craft of editorials, op-eds, letters to the editor and manifestos. Come prepared to speak passionately about issues that move you!

Writer's Workshop: The Power of Place

The subject of environments and how we care for them has become increasingly important to survival in our world. We will look at our personal environments as well as those in the world at large and read a variety of literature, including essays, journals, and poetry. We will create our own journals of written and visual materials to explore our personal relationship to the world we inhabit.

Writers' Workshop: Research Papers

In this course we will devote a quarter to writing the perfect research paper. We will spend a good deal of time learning how to design and narrow a topic, using the library and the internet, taking notes, organizing ideas strategically, and citing sources. We will also spend time polishing our skills in grammar, vocabulary and spelling. We will only write one formal paper, but you won't forget it for a long time.

Writers' Workshop: Satire (World Lit. and Comp)

The class will look at what Horace called, "telling the truth, laughing." Students will read *Catch-22*, and write two papers on it. They will also choose parts of *Gulliver's Travels* to read and re-write. We may also read some shorter pieces from both early and modern writers such as Swift, Voltaire, Twain, Bierce, Thurber, Parker and Vonnegut, Fern, Ivins, Dr Suess and others possibilities. We will stress the writing process: pre-writing, drafting, and revising. Students can expect to work each of their four papers to a high level. Hopefully students will emerge from this class with improved reading, writing and thinking skills as well as an understanding of humor & satire in literature.

Writers' Workshop: Short Fiction

The craft of writing is best developed in a workshop environment, where students read and critique their own writing in a classroom community, striving to de-mystify the writing process. Students will learn from highly respected authors, as well as student writers, where short stories come from, what it means to write short fiction effectively, and how short stories get published.

Writers' Workshop: Skill Building

This class will focus on writing basic types of essays, with a focus on grammar. Students will explore different forms of writing, be given the chance to find an authentic writing voice, and generate their own writing topics. Some of the forms we will focus on are simple versions of the narrative essay, an informative essay, a persuasive essay, and a choice piece. During the first part of the quarter, the class will focus on grammar, the sentence, and paragraph structure. In addition, there will be a focus on spelling strategies. Most of the grammar and spelling lessons will be taught through games and activities. This class is structured for students who do not feel that they have a command of basic grammar and punctuation conventions, and have difficulty structuring a basic, five-paragraph essay.

Writers' Workshop: Sports Writing

This class will focus on writing about sports. We will read newspapers, magazines, essays, short stories, poetry and novels which center on sports. Students will write their own columns and articles covering an event and try their hands at literature.

WW: Sports Writing and Video

In this class students will read great sports writing, create their own sports writing and produce short videos connected to the two.

Writers' Workshop: Student Publication – The Leek

This class will provide students a chance to read and write satire, learn a little about newspaper writing and most importantly, improve each student's writing. Although this is a writing class, we will do a fair amount of talking, reading, revising, and critiquing in class, which will force a fair amount of writing and typing outside of class time. Students will need to fulfill many of the same requirements and complete many of the same exercises but will generate their own paper topic and write their own pieces. We will stress the writing process-Pre-writing, Drafting, and Revising. Students can expect to work their writing to a high level; each issue will constitute a phase, and there will be specific requirements for each issue/phase grade. Hopefully students will emerge from this class with improved reading, writing and thinking skills as well as an understanding of humor and satire. The Leek will take its own shape this year.

Writers' Workshop: Understanding the Media

Explore the media through in-depth analysis of commercials, music videos, news, film and the Internet while working on your writing skills. We will view *Outfoxed*, *Control Room*, *Mickey Mouse*, *Monopoly*, *Killing Us Softly*, and *the Merchants of Cool*, as well as, read the futuristic sci-fi love story, *Feed* by M.T. Anderson. Students will be expected to carefully write and re-write assignments that deal with the issues raised in this class.

Writers' Workshop: Writing about Literature (Lit. and Comp.)

For this class, students will compose and study literary analysis. Students will read things as a class, in small groups, or independently and write about them. The goal of the class is to improve each student's ability to write for high school and college English settings.

Writers' Workshop: Writing and Performance

In this course, we will look at various methods of self-expression and you will have the opportunity to explore these forms within your own creative realm. We will experiment with diverse genres of writing, art and performance. We will also practice creative expression, as well as succinct and accurate written portrayals of our statements. This course will be useful for any student, from those entering the creative arts field to those filling out college applications.

Writers' Workshop: Writing for Expression

Let your voice be heard! Writing is a powerful form of communication; learn to use it as a tool to make a statement, to get to know yourself better, or simply to stretch your imagination. During this course, we will experiment with various forms of writing as a mode of expressing ourselves. We will refine our ability to represent our individual voices through writing short stories, autobiographical essays and poetry, as well as other less traditional forms of expression.

Writers' Workshop: Writing in the Humanities

In this class you will develop the skills you need to write a research paper, a report, an analysis of literature and other writing forms commonly found in social studies and literature classes. Students will have a wide range of choice in the topics, but will be expected to develop high-level skills in the requirements of these forms.

Writers' Workshop: Writing on the Edge

This class will look at different authors and what makes them unique in their writing style. Students will write a collection of poems or short stories which emulate the writing style of a favorite author or devise their own style with acknowledgement of how it relates or doesn't to that of the authors we have read.

MATHEMATICS

Courses in *Italics* represent early versions of offerings and are no longer offered.

Discrete Math

Discrete math involves the modeling and understanding of finite systems. For example, when we explore estate division, we will seek to solve the dilemma of dividing an estate (house, boat, car, etc.) so that all heirs receive what they consider their “fair share.” How might we manipulate and/or improve an election to enhance its outcome? This course will provide resolutions to these issues and other “real world” applications.

Prerequisites: Equations I and Figures, Shapes and Patterns I

Equations I

Students will learn to translate from English into algebraic language, and vice-versa, making sure the new language is understood and used appropriately in real problems. The nature of the dependence of one variable in a formula upon another will be examined and analyzed. Students will learn graphs and graphic representation in general, as well as their construction and interpretation in representing facts, dependence, and solving problems.

Equations IA

This class develops the concept of “variable” and of an equation, working with hands-on problems to do so in an interactive way. Students will learn how to do operations with positive and negative numbers, and how to manipulate equations. They will also practice and come to understand order of operations when solving equations, and they will learn how to add and multiply polynomials. We will also study linear relationships in terms of equations, graphs and tables. Students, while learning basic algebra skills, will develop problem-solving skills throughout the course.

Equations IB

This class begins with a presumption that students have an understanding of variables and basic equations. This class will approach algebra in a more abstract way than Equations IA. Students will learn how to factor polynomials, how to perform operations on rational expressions, how to work with inequalities and absolute value expressions, and how to solve problems with systems of equations. Graphing will be explored further and students will be solving more complex equations and problems, expanding on the work from Equations IA. Students will be introduced to the concept of “function” and will also look at both linear and non-linear relationships. Again, problem solving will be the underlying basis of the course.

Equations II

Students will expand their understanding of the concept of “function,” the dependence of one variable in a formula upon another. They will learn that there is a small number of different types of functions that arise frequently and help us to describe a vast number of situations. Students will concentrate on these few core functions and learn to recognize them by studying their characteristics and what differentiates them.

Prerequisites: Equations IB (required), Figures, Shapes and Patterns I (recommended)

Equations III

This class is intended to cover additional topics for college-bound students. They include trigonometry, analytical geometry, projective geometry and parametric equations.

Prerequisite: Equations II (required); Figures, Shapes and Patterns II (recommended)

Figures I (formerly Figures, Shapes and Patterns I)

The principal purpose of this course is to develop a working understanding of fundamental geometry concepts in order to use them in problem solving. These concepts include symmetry, properties of polygons and circles, line and angle properties, congruence, similarity, ratios and proportions, area, surface area, volume, trigonometry, and the Pythagorean Theorem. Students practice forming conjectures and writing definitions based on what they discover during group investigations. The class is taught with a hands-on approach based on the philosophy that when students learn this way, they can more easily integrate and retain information.

Figures, Shapes and Patterns II

The principle purpose of this class is to further exercise the spatial imagination of the students, to make them familiar with the great fundamental propositions of geometry and their applications, to develop understanding and appreciation of a deductive proof and the ability to use this method of reasoning where it is applicable, and to form habits of precise and succinct statement of the logical organization of ideas and of logical memory.

Prerequisites: Figures I or equivalent

Introduction to Calculus

In this class we will look at topics that lead into Calculus, such as functions, area under curves, derivatives and integrals. We will do problem solving dealing with the application of these topics. Any student considering college study or wishing to further understand the applications of mathematics should take this class.

Prerequisite: Equations III (or be enrolled concurrently)

Math Clinic: Pre-Algebra

This class will prepare a student who isn't yet ready for the abstract thinking of Algebra. Students will focus on concepts that might still be unclear to them including fractions, percents, ratios, and negative numbers. An emphasis will be on problem solving and gaining confidence to approach mathematical problems.

Math Crammer (P/SAT Review)

This class provides students with a chance to review math topics and problems that appear on P/SAT tests.

Mathematical Topics in Natural and Social Sciences

Students will look directly at the ways that mathematics is found and used in the study of the natural and social world.

Math From a Different Point of View

This class is for students who want to work on improving their math skills in order to promote their success in other math classes at New Vista and elsewhere. We will be working on the basic skills needed in Equations I, Figures I, and Statistics. But, most importantly, we will be finding real world applications of mathematics and ways of connecting math to student interests. Examples include nature, art, music, cooking, computers and architecture. This is the place to come to reclaim your life from math anxiety.

Math Workshop

This is a structured opportunity to get support for one of two purposes: to raise a grade of C which you have earned in another math class or to get additional support for a challenging math class you are currently taking.

Moving Ahead in Math (Math)

This is the most basic class for students who have weak math backgrounds or who feel stuck or insecure in math classes. Students will be asked to take responsibility for understanding their own learning styles and, with the help of the teacher, find ways to strengthen their basic math and computational skills. Students may repeat this class as often as necessary in order to get the skills to move ahead in other math classes.

Moving Ahead in Math (IIP)

This is an individualized math class in which students can: build their math skills/ get support for a math class they are taking, and/or prepare to enter a math class. Students can earn either math or intrapersonal credit.

Physical Science/Equations I (Two-Quarter Class)

This course integrates the topics of Physical Science and Equations I with a beginning knowledge of Chemistry and Linear Equations. Students are expected to make connections between classroom work and their environment. Reasoning and applied math skills are emphasized. Students are encouraged to become independent thinkers and assume responsibility for their learning. Of equal importance, students will polish their communication skills in a collective, cooperative learning process. Science topics include: The Scientific Method, Volume, Mass, Weight and Force, Pressure, and Characteristic Properties of Matter (melting/freezing point, boiling point, density, solubility). The nature of the dependence of one variable in a formula upon another will also be examined and analyzed. Students will learn graphs and graphic representation in general -- their construction and interpretation in representing facts, dependence, and solving problems.

Statistics

Statistics, data, and surveys are all around us. They may even influence the way we dress, what we eat, and whether we choose to ride a roller coaster. In this course students will take a closer look at surveys, the data they produce and how it is manipulated. This course will also cover how data can be used to predict future events and the probability of those events happening. Students will explore why statistics are so important and relate statistics to current events in a variety of fields. When this course is complete, students will have an understanding of such terms as standard deviation, z-score, permutations, combinations, and chi-square statistic.

Prerequisite: Equations IA or Equations IB or equivalent

Topics in Applied Mathematics

This is a chance to see sophisticated mathematics as it is used in the real world. Major topics are: the role of mathematics in decision making and social change, and questions revolving around shape and growth. Specific topics include: growth patterns for different types of species or populations, whether living beings can attain certain heights or weights, voting systems, creating electoral districts, and fair divisions of bulky items. Projects may include research on such topics as how recent elections might have had different results with different voting rules, the under counting of some populations in the US census, and applications of the Fibonacci sequence.

Prerequisites: Equations 2 and Figures 1

Science

Courses in Italics represent early versions of offerings and are no longer offered.

Anatomy & Physiology A

This is an extension course in Biology. We will explore the following systems in the human body: the skin, the skeletal system, the muscular system, the nervous system, the senses, and the endocrine system. There will be dissection of organs and entire organisms in this class. Emphasis will be placed on gaining an understanding of how bodies work, including some clinical applications of the concepts and consideration of the impact that advances in medical technology will have on our society. Work will include detailed lab reports, quizzes and projects on each system.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Biology A and Biology B

Anatomy & Physiology B

This course is a continuation of Anatomy A. We will continue studying systems, including the endocrine, nervous, excretory and reproductive. There will be more labs, more projects, more fun!

Prerequisite: Anatomy and Physiology A

Biology A

This course will explore the nature of disease and its effects on the human body. Students will be introduced to the basics of biochemistry, cell structure and function, cell division, viruses, bacterial diseases, and the function of the basic organ systems in human anatomy. The balance within and between living systems will be examined in order to understand the disruption caused by various types of disease states. Many of these concepts will be investigated in the lab, where the scientific method will be emphasized. Class work will include lab reports, class work, and homework. There will be a small group presentation to the class. Students will also conduct research and/or experiments on disease and do class presentations as individual final projects.

Biology B

This course will explore human organ systems, genetics, evolution and ecology from the perspective of homeostasis. How do systems in nature maintain a balance and react to stresses which disrupt the balance? The course will include lab work, homework, class work, quizzes, projects and, weather permitting, some field work.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology A

Botany

This class is for anyone interested in plants. We will go beyond the classification of plants that is typical of Botany. We will study plant evolution, plant anatomy and physiology, and invasive species. We will look at how we use plants in our everyday life; including nutrition, bio-fuels, and other natural resources. There is no prerequisite for this class, basic Biology will be reviewed and/or re-taught as needed. Students must be willing to spend some time outside and getting dirty.

Botany

The purpose of this class will be to learn how plants work. For example, we will ask questions such as how do plants move water hundreds of feet up into the air? How do plants survive without eating the way we do? How do different plants produce such a variety of flower colors? Do plants communicate? Do they move? By the end of the class you will see plants as amazing and intriguing creatures.

Prerequisite: Biology A and B

Chemistry A

This course will be a core chemistry course building on Physical Science. We will explore the relationship between the structure of matter and the interactions between different types of matter. A great deal of time will be spent in the lab conducting experiments, collecting data, analyzing the results and then applying the information through experiments on products which the students use in their daily lives. Concepts explored will include: bonding-ionic and covalent, the periodic table, acids and bases, reactions, entropy and titration by weight and volume. Class work will include lab reports, research, experiments, and class presentations as individual final projects.

Prerequisites: Physical Science or equivalent, and Equations IB.

Chemistry B

This is a continuation of Chemistry A. This course will cover topics including dimensional analysis, moles, measurement, equilibrium, redox reactions, and the gas laws. The emphasis will be on the way chemistry affects the lives of the students. Work in this course will include lab work, projects, tests and quizzes.

Prerequisites: Successful completion of Chemistry A

Ecology

Ecology is the study of the interactions of living organisms with the physical world. Topics of study in the course include evolution by natural selection, distribution and abundance of organisms, the introduction of non-native species, human effects on the environment, and the physical and biological properties of our local habitat. In this class we will study the local environment through field research and labs. Students should be prepared to be outside on many Wednesdays, exploring Boulder's natural environment.

Ecology/Environmental Science

Ecology is the study of the interactions of living organisms with the physical world. Topics of study in the course include evolution by natural selection, distribution and abundance of organisms, the introduction of non-native species, human effects on the environment, and the physical and biological properties of our local habitat. In this class we will study the local environment through field research and labs. Students should be prepared to be outside, exploring Boulder's natural environment.

Forensics

In this class we will form teams of forensic researchers in order to solve a mystery. We will use the tools of real forensic scientists such as DNA fingerprinting, fingerprint and handwriting analysis, hair analysis, sketching, forensic entomology, and many more ways of analyzing evidence to solve a crime. Teams will create a body of evidence and present their solution to the crime at the end of the quarter.

No prerequisites.

Genetics

Students in this class will explore the details of genetics. We will cover basic Mendelian genetics, as well as improvements and modifications of the theories in recent years. We will also discuss biotechnology, genetically modified foods, as well as the social and political implications of genetics. Students will also have the opportunity to study their own DNA. This class now has the **pre-requisite of Biology A and B.**

Geology

This course will provide students with a foundation in geology by exploring topics in both the classroom and outdoor setting. Topics to be covered include mineral and rock identification, geologic hazards, glacial geology, hydrology of Boulder Creek, and map and compass skills. The final project may include the creation of a detailed map and guide to the natural history of a local trail. There will be frequent field trips to view different aspects of local geology. These trips will involve hiking distances of up to two miles in potentially inclement weather. This course is appropriate for both students who have taken an Earth Science class in middle school and those who have not.

Prerequisite: successful completion of any science class

Historical and Scientific Revolutions

This course will examine revolutionary events in history and look at the subsequent changes that transformed science and the arts. We will examine several major events together and then do two major projects exploring the relationship between history, science and the arts. Expect lots of reading, research, reflection and writing assignments. A field trip to the play *Copenhagen* by Michael Frayn has been scheduled and is a mandatory part of this course. Social studies or science credit can be earned, depending on the focus of individual projects.

Human Health and Nutrition

This course will look at several different aspects of health and explore the science behind them. The topics include mental health, human growth and development, sexual health, disease and wellness, and addictions and toxins. The underlying theme for all of these will be nutrition.

Life Science: Physiology – Human Biology

This class will teach students how their bodies work and what is necessary to keep them functioning well. Expect to learn about nutrition, exercise, sleep, and the effect of outside substances on the brain and body among other exciting topics!

Moving Ahead in Science

This class is intended to provide additional support to students who will be taking a science class in one of the schedule's other time slots. If you find that you need more time, more explanation or just more help, this is the place to come.

Physical Science

This course provides students with a beginning knowledge of Chemistry. Students are expected to make connections between classroom work and their environment. Reasoning and applied math skills are emphasized. Students are encouraged to become independent thinkers and assume responsibility for their learning. Just as important, students will polish their communication skills in a collective, cooperative learning process. They will learn from their environment, lab and text, from their teacher and each other. Topics include: The scientific method, volume, mass, weight and force, pressure, and characteristic properties of matter (melting/freezing point, boiling point, density, solubility).

Physical Science/Equations I (Two-Quarter Class)

See description under Math.

Physical/Earth Science A

Physical Science is the study of the principles that govern the physical world and the concepts that continue to challenge our understanding of the universe. In the first quarter we will study the history and evolution of the universe, as well as fundamental chemical principles. The physical science content will be taught within the context of Earth Science in order to provide a comprehensive view of our universe.

Physical/Earth Science B

This class is a continuation of Physical/Earth Science A. We will study Earth's history, astronomy, and fundamental laws and theories about the physical world.

Physical Science B: Energy and the Environment

In this class we will study non-renewable and renewable sources of energy in detail. We will discuss the pros and cons of both in order to create scientifically sound political opinions on topics connected to these crucial issues. Final projects will involve the design and construction of green building prototypes.

Physical Science B: Geology

This is one of the classes that allow students to fulfill the New Vista Physical Science requirement. It will provide students with a foundation in geology by exploring topics in both the classroom and outdoor setting. Topics to be covered include geologic time, mineral and rock identification, geologic hazards, glacial geology, hydrology of Boulder Creek, and map and compass skills. The final project includes the study of the geologic history of a local area of your choice. There will be multiple field trips to view different aspects of local geology; these trips will involve hiking distances of up to two miles in potentially inclement weather. This course is appropriate for both students who have taken an Earth Science class in middle school and those who have not.

Pre-requisite: successful completion of any science class.

Physical Science – Lab Skills

This course will provide students with an introduction to laboratory science. The focus of the course will be hands-on laboratory experiments, some of which will be student designed. Skills to be learned include measurement, experimental design, lab safety, lab write-ups, use of laboratory equipment, data collection, and graphing. Content to be covered will include introductory, fundamental ideas in both Physics and Chemistry through the design, execution and written description of experiments. This course will provide the foundation students need to continue on in Chemistry and/or Physics. This course fulfills 1.0 of the 2.0 Physical Science requirements for New Vista.

Prerequisite: none

Physical Science B: Oceanography

Students in this class will explore the science of the world's oceans – the largest ecosystem on our planet. The class will begin with a history of ocean exploration and then proceed to the study of the ways oceans sustain themselves, the impact they have on those of us on land, and the impact of pollution and global warming on the oceans. The class will include the physics, chemistry and biology of ocean life.

Physical Science Topics: Controversy and the Cutting Edge

In this course students will explore conspiracy theories and the science that supports or disproves them. Students will also investigate theories on the cutting edge of how we understand our reality, including quantum theory, string theory, information theory, and M theory. Students will be challenged and should feel comfortable reading, writing, and speaking at a high level. Reliable internet access is suggested.

Prerequisite: 2.0 Science credits MINIMUM

Physics A

This course covers linear motion, projectile motion, relative velocities, forces, friction, circular motion, work and momentum. Through applications or situations the class will derive relationships using data collection and discussion. Some basic skills, including simple trigonometry and vector addition, are covered in order to facilitate these endeavors.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Equations II or Algebra II

Physics B

Concepts in this course include work, potential energy, kinetic energy, springs, simple harmonic motion, waves, sound and light. Projects of an individual's choosing, demonstrating understanding of physics concepts, are an integral part of the course.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Physics A

Science in History

This class will explore the relationship between science and history. Analysis will concentrate on the influence of science and technology on the course of human events and vice versa. We will discuss the "rise of science" and the implications of its advancement. Topics will include the domestication of organisms, the influence of disease, scientific theory as the new paradigm, science and philosophy, and the development of tools and materials for farming, building, and fighting. Students should expect to engage in reading, writing, class discussions and projects.

Science of Art/Art of Science

Though they may seem to be at completely opposite ends of the world of human experience, the great disciplines of science and art intersect more often than you might believe. So where does chemistry, physics, biology, and astronomy meet up with painting, drawing, sculpture, literature, film, and music? In short, just about everywhere! From the work of Renaissance artists such as Leonardo Da Vinci to the work of NASA scientists on the Hubble Space Telescope, the overlap between art and science is rich and varied. Throughout this class we will explore this overlap with a passion common to both scientists and artists.

Pre-requisite: Physical Science Lab Skills

Science of Light

This course will explore the science of light and optical components. Topics will include, but are not limited to, light sources, spectra, light properties, reflection, refraction, diffraction, interference, and polarization. We will explore the applications of light and optics in everyday and no-so everyday devices, such as, CD players, telescopes, cameras, LCD TVs, spectrophotometers, lasers, and more.

Pre-requisites: Equations 1B and Physical Lab Skills or equivalent.

The Science of Sound

This course will examine the science and application of sound in society. Topics will include waves, harmonics, electrification of sound, the physiology of hearing, resonant frequencies, SONAR, acoustics, and perhaps even more! You will learn how singers can produce two sounds at once, how microphones and amplifiers work, what distinguishes the tone of an instrument, some of the history of sound, and how sound is used beyond just hearing it. This class will involve making your own instrument and researching the instruments and music of a different culture.

Prerequisites: Equations 1B and Physical Science Lab Skill or equivalent.

The Science of Traditional Practices

This course will focus on the science behind traditional practices. Topics to be included are: metallurgy, pottery, pigments, dyes, agriculture, foods, medicine, and solar technology. Discussions will emphasize not only the science but the history and environmental and social impacts that accompany technology. In some cases, alternatives to traditional practices will be explored. Class expectations include a final project, journal writing and participation in discussions and labs. The project will involve the research and presentation of a topic relevant to the science and history of technology.

Science Research Seminar (Yearlong Class)

This course is designed to provide students with a real scientific experience. The first quarter of the course will take place during regular Seminar time. Second through fourth quarters will be independent study. Students are expected to be self-sufficient and responsible enough to handle work with scientists in the community, and to design and carry out scientific research.

Pre-requisites: Four quarters of New Vista science and successful community experiences.

Topics: Advanced Biology

This course will explore the hot topics in modern Biology through readings, lectures, and discussions. We will ponder “which came first, the chicken or the egg?” We will discuss the horrors of some popular weight loss diets, look at the biological effects of drugs and alcohol, study in depth the biology of cancer and AIDS, learn the details of the present climate change problem, and become well versed in the modern discussions of genetic engineering and biotechnology. Much of this course will be driven by current events and your personal interests in Biology.

Prerequisite: Biology A and B

Topics: Animal Behavior

This course will cover animal behavior throughout the Kingdom Animalia. We will find out about the causes, the cycles and the evolution of animal reactions to different stimuli. The anatomy and physiology of the coordination between the sense organs, the central nervous system, the endocrine system and the muscular system will be studied. We will research the answers to questions about animal intelligence, communication, instinct and learning. We will design and carry out experiments with some invertebrate animals (we won't hurt them, I promise) and compare research in the lab to research in the animal's natural environment.

Prerequisite: Biology A and Biology B or instructor's permission

Topics: Bio-ethics

Bio-ethics is about examining the choices and actions we take that affect our health and increasingly, other areas of our lives. Continued advances in medicine and biotechnology will lead to more decisions we must make in caring for ourselves, our families and ultimately, the world. How can we make good decisions if we don't understand this new technology and how it will affect us?

This course will help you understand both the technology and the ethics surrounding our choices in several areas: reproduction, stem cell research, cloning, organ transplants, genetically engineered foods, physician assisted suicide, the human genome project, environmental ethics and the use of animals in research. We will use case studies and a variety of other web-based resources to help us foster a better understanding of the social, ethical and legal dilemmas that arise from advances in medicine and biotechnology.

Pre-requisites: Bio A and B

Topics: The Brain's Self

This course is designed as an action-packed, fun exploration of the philosophy and neuroscience of the self. Each day we stick to concrete philosophical and neuro-scientific examples related specifically to the self. By asking how different perspectives of self help illuminate these questions, we see that weaving these perspectives together may lead us to change, or even enrich, our sense of who we are as selves. Such organizational topics include: How are we the same self over time? How are minds and brains related? Are we just the outcome of social programming, or other deterministic forces? Do we have free will? If so, where does it come from and what forces can influence it? What happens when the emotional (or some other critical) part of your brain is damaged? If we are the “same person” after severe trauma, or life change, how do we describe the changes which that self went through? Plus MANY, MANY more questions just like these!

Topics: The Brain's Self II

How do we know any of what we found out in the Brain's Self? This class will be about "What is self knowledge?" The topics of introspection or the "inner eye" of consciousness will guide our search. We will look at neuroscience topics which include imagery, attention, and frontal lobe function among others. We will also look at the philosophy of introspection which goes beyond the neuroscience models.
Prerequisite: Passing The Brain's Self

Topics: Electromagnetism and Beyond

We will explore the concepts of electromagnetism and relativity. Students will also have the opportunity to investigate personal interests not conventionally addressed in a high school physics course.
Note: Completion of Physics A and B are not required to take this course, nor will this class on its own meet a Physics college entrance requirement.
Prerequisite: Equations 2 or 2B, or Algebra 2 and teacher approval

Topics: Energy!

At the root of the conflicts in the Middle East is the fact that the people of the United States consume more energy than is produced within our national borders. This class will help you understand the reasons for this state of affairs and the options for doing things differently. The following topics will be included: where our energy comes from, energy resources, basics of electricity and its generation, alternative/renewable energy resources, energy consumption, energy conservation, and implications for the future.

Topics: Environmental Issues

Students will look at local and national environmental issues from multiple perspectives. They will learn to think critically about all issues in their lives and not just from one point of view. In addition, they will gain specific scientific knowledge about environmental issues. Students will also gain debating and writing skills. The book *Encounters with the Archdruid* by John McPhee will be a major focus of the course. No prerequisites.

Topics: Environmental Science

This course will explore the science behind local issues including (but not limited to) Rocky Flats, the brown cloud, xeriscaping and lynx reintroduction. Students will be doing field work, lab reports, group and individual projects, and homework assignments.
Prerequisites: Biology A and Biology B

Topics: Evolution

This course will explore topics in evolution starting with geologic time, the evidence for evolution from a variety of scientific fields, the mechanisms of evolution, the rate of evolution, hominid evolution, cultural and behavioral evolution and the future. We will use the book, The Diversity of Life, by E. O. Wilson, as well as magazine articles and many excerpts from books written by Stephen Jay Gould. The grade will be based on two mini-projects, as well as class work, lab reports, quizzes and homework assignments.
Pre-requisites: Biology A and B

Topics: Healthy Body – Healthy Mind

This class will focus on scientific research that is believed to improve human health and prolong one's life span. We will examine our own habits and environments to see where we could adjust and change in order to live a healthier life. Some of the topics to be covered include: proper nutrition, exercise science, expanding your brainpower and emotional health.

Topics: Native Colorado Ecology

What was happening in Boulder before it was a thriving city? How about before there was any human influence at all? We will explore native ecology and geographic features of the various ecosystems in Colorado. Students will be introduced to a general knowledge of basic ecology. We will specifically explore the areas surrounding Boulder and will touch on the impact humans have had on local animal and plant life through a historical perspective.

Topics: The Physiology of the Brain

This class is a biology extension that will explore the anatomy and physiology of the brain and the mysteries of the mind. Topics will include structure and function of the brain and nervous system, the

neurotransmitters and hormones that affect the brain, emotions, consciousness, the effects of drugs, sleep, gender differences, intelligence, memory and learning. An optional dissection of a mammal's brain and activities that will allow students to discover characteristics of their own brain's function will be used, along with readings and research projects to learn about these fascinating topics.

Topics: Plants, People and Culture

A course on the physiology of plants and the important roles they have played in the lives of human beings across time and around the world.

Prerequisites: Biology A and Biology B

Topics: Rainforest Studies

In this course, students will have a chance to study the ecology of the rainforest in great depth. We will also focus on current political and social issues and involve ourselves in efforts to protect the rainforest for future generations.

Prerequisites: Biology A and Biology B

Topics: Volcanoes

This class invites students to explore volcanic evolution, land formations, eruptions, and legends through the study of the volcanoes of the United States.

Topics: Water

Water is part of all we do. This course will address the science of the water molecule – its constituents, why it is unique and how water's properties affect us. Social, legal and environmental aspects of water will also be examined. A water-related final project will be a part of this course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

A Global Cold War

As a class we will examine many of the key conflicts of the Cold War. This course will examine the Cold War from a truly global perspective. We will analyze how the Cold War determined our current political, economic, and military affairs. We will understand how both American and Soviet interventions in the Third World during the Cold War laid the foundations for many of the key conflicts we see today. This will be an exciting perspective through which we can understand our most recent history. Students should expect to do research, work in groups, do role plays, read articles and chapters from a variety of sources, write papers, participate in Socratic seminars and class discussions, and create projects.

Civics: The Constitution

This class will focus on the political, social, and historical events that led to the formation of the United States Constitution. Students will examine how and why the Constitution was created and the tension and conflicts that resulted from its implementation. This course asks that students analyze primary source documents, engage in reading and writing, use critical thinking skills and participate in seminars and class discussions.

Civics: The Bicentennial of the Constitution Competition

This course prepares students for the annual December competition at the State Capitol on knowledge of the Constitution and Bill of Rights in history and today. We have always done well in the competition -this year we plan to win and go on to the national competition in Washington, D.C. This class is one of the best ways to really learn about the foundations of our government and the rights we have as citizens. It is HARD work, but very rewarding.

Civics: Get Someone Elected

Students in this class will work in the classroom learning about the workings of the American electoral system as well as in actual political campaigns leading up to the presidential election.

Civics: How A Bill Becomes A Law

The emphasis of this class will be on civic action as a way of learning the basics of the legislative process. An example of the work of the class would be learning about the current school finance laws and then organizing and lobbying on behalf of positions the class wants to advocate. If we want to be effective as citizens, expect to dress the part and commit a significant amount of time to the class. An option will be provided to extend class involvement into Community Experience for credit.

Civics: How a Bill Becomes a Law - The Environmental Movement

This course will examine the history of the environmental movement, environmental legislation, the interaction between government and environmental NGO's (non-governmental organizations), and current events in environmental policy.

Civics: How a Bill Becomes a Law - The Pledge

The emphasis of this class will be on civic action as a way of learning the basics of the legislative process. We will focus on the recent Pledge of Allegiance law as a case study. We will explore the history of the Pledge, how this particular bill became a law in Colorado and what actions citizens can take to influence the law. We will also look at other state laws and lawsuits surrounding the pledge.

Civics: Important U.S. Supreme Court Cases

Some of the most interesting seminar texts are the actual decisions of the United States Supreme Court. In this course, we will "seminar" cases having to do with freedoms of speech and religion, rights of search and

seizure, and other landmark cases. While the reading load is sometimes significant, the seminars are lively and the content unlike anything found outside of law school! Essay writing is the other emphasis of the class.

Civics: Making Public Policy

Should there be curfews for teens? Should prescription drugs be covered by Medicare? Should students be required to take civics classes? Should banks be allowed to sell information about their customers? Should the penalty for burning copies of CDs be increased? Should national forests be thinned? These are public policy questions that are addressed by various levels of government in the process of making public policy. Effective citizens know how to influence policies that affects their lives. In this course you will learn the process by which public policy is drafted and turned into law in Boulder, Colorado, and USA. You will research and draft your own policy for the issues you believe are important, and have the opportunity to lobby lawmakers and attempt to influence policy.

Civics – Mock Trial/Moot Court

In this class students get to enact hypothetical and actual court proceedings. Students take the role of prosecution, defense, judge, and jurors. In Mock Trial we deal with hypothetical scenarios; in moot court we enact a contemporary case. We will also visit the mock trial/moot court class at CU Law School and watch them do what we are doing.

Civics: Social and Political Action

In this class you will research a problem that you think needs to be fixed in the USA, Colorado, or Boulder. You will work with a small group of other people who are interested in the same problem, formulate possible solutions, talk to legislators and experts, and then take action to fix the problem. In the process you will be working with experts from outside of NVHS, law students, lawmakers, and others who may be able to help you further your action plan. The topics will be determined by your own interest.

Civics: Street Law – Know Your Rights!

This course will focus on helping students develop a clearer understanding of their rights and responsibilities as citizens of the United States. Topics will include: basic Constitutional rights, family law, and other aspects of the legal system. Expect individual and group projects, several Socratic seminars, and hard work!

Civics: Taking Social Action and Three Days in Spring

Students in this class will learn the strategies and tactics of social action and then identify a project they want to carry out in the community. The class is co-enrolled for Three Days in Spring.

Current Political Events

This course will cover current political events acquired through newspapers, magazines and other media resources. These events will be analyzed and compared and contrasted to other historical events and perspectives. The class will help students develop critical thinking skills with regard to the news, as well as help them become better readers of the events happening around them.

Developmental US/World History

This class is for students who need to improve their basic social studies skills including: note taking, doing research, making poster boards, executing final projects, participating in discussions and working in small groups. The subject matter will be selected topics in US and World History.

Economics – Show Me the Money

OK, so this course will probably not make you any extra cash, but it will open the world of economics to you from an American perspective. We'll discuss the major principles on which our economy rests as well as the forces of supply and demand. The U.S. has the largest and strongest economy in the world and decisions our government makes have significant impact on the world around us. This class will focus on current events and use Socratic seminars to debate and understand issues today. This course is different from the Business class in that it focuses on the way the consumer, the government and the business community interact to create an overall system. The Business course focuses on the essential elements of running an individual enterprise.

Greece & Rome

A surprising number of ideas and innovations from the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome remain important to modern American society. Looking at what remains from these civilizations (their artworks, remains of ancient cities, recorded history, etc.) you will gain an overview of these civilizations and how they have impacted modern western society. You will explore both the actions of key agents, such as emperors and leaders, as well as the daily life of average people.

History Day Competition

This block prepares students to compete in the National History Day Competition at the District and State levels. There is an identified theme for History Day which students learn about together by conducting historical research. Then, each student selects a topic to research and present in one of a variety of formats, including the traditional research paper, dramatic presentation, video production, table top display, computer program, or slide-tape presentation. Students have a great deal of freedom in selecting their research topic and choice of exhibition. Special emphasis will be placed on developing computer-based simulation/web page projects in conjunction with the University of Colorado department of Computer Sciences.

History of Southwest Asia through Literature

In this course we will be reading novels and memoirs that are set in Southwest Asia (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Palestine, Iran, and possibly other Middle Eastern countries). Some examples of the readings are Little Drummer Girl, Three Cups of Tea, Kite Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns, and The Septembers of Shiraz. As we read we will also be learning about the history and issues that this part of the world faces. We will analyze whether our reading fits the reality of what has happened. The goal will be to learn about the history through the perspective that we will get in our reading.

Historical and Scientific Revolutions

See description under Science

Introduction to Anthropology

This course will explore four areas of anthropology: cultural, physical, linguistic, and archeological. We will look at the emergence and evolution of culture through research and ethnographic study. The class will also explore prehistoric and historic archeology. We will examine language as it relates to issues of evolution and culture. Additionally, the class will look at the emergence of humans and study possible links to our ancestors of the past.

Introduction to Archaeology

This course will explore the science of archaeology and its application in helping to clarify our world's history. The class will survey research methods, significant sites and some artifact analysis. The purpose is to show how we uncover images of the past.

Introduction to Psychology

In this course students will explore the world of psychology and its components. We will study the mental, cognitive, emotional, perceptual, physiological, and psycho-social correlations of development as it relates to behavior. This course will provide a basic introduction to the discipline. You will not be able to diagnose, treat, or analyze yourself or others, but you will learn more about the mind and brain.

Make My Millennium

The approaching calendar turn has generated a tremendous amount of attention. We'll look at social, historical, technological, and cultural phenomena related to millennial transition, and attempt to make some sense of human behavior. Along the way we'll make some millennial noise of our own – perhaps a time capsule, certainly an exhibition.

Methodology in History

This class will concentrate on what it is like to be a historian. We will learn how to create a thesis question and take the necessary steps to prove or disprove that question through the analysis of research materials. We will scrutinize the writings of other historians. We will learn how to refine our own historical writing skills. This process will include learning how to properly cite sources, how to distinguish between primary and secondary sources, and how to properly present an argument and back it up with historical research. The final project will consist of a thesis paper based on a topic of the student's choice.

Native American History

This class will focus on post European contact native experiences. We will explore American History from the perspective of native peoples. We will learn concepts of historiography, how American identity has both adopted native peoples, as well as rejected them; and explore the modern day issues of Native American cultural identity within the contemporary world.

Political Literature

What do you know about different political systems? What about the lives of people living in various political situations? In this class we will look at the many different kinds of political systems that exist, and learn about how people have lived under various political conditions through narrative stories. Be prepared to read several books and short stories, participate in large and small group discussions, and write papers of varying lengths in this interesting and informative class.

Philosophy: The Keys to Life

In this course we will look at various philosophers and philosophies from an array of cultures – Ancient Greek, Chinese, Japanese, Medieval European, and Native American. We will examine their traditions in their effort to define and establish ideal and appropriate models for leading an honorable life. We will also work to create personal values and rituals to define and realize values, meaning, and purpose in order to establish models for leading our own lives.

Political Cartooning

It's often said that a picture is worth a thousand words. Political cartoons are pictures that communicate the abstractions, ideas and emotions of the political climate. In this course we will learn to analyze political cartoons in order to truly understand the message being conveyed. We will then apply this knowledge by creating cartoons and exploring their usage as a means to communicate criticism of events and conditions outside of our society. Students will be expected to create a portfolio which will highlight their progress throughout the course.

Political Satire

In this course we will analyze satirical essays, films and cartoons in order to truly understand the messages being conveyed. We will then apply this knowledge to creating our own satirical pieces and exploring their usage as a means of communicating criticism of events and conditions in our society.

Power in the US

Who has more power, the President or Congress? How much can lobbyists influence legislation? What powers do citizens have to influence public policy? How much does money make a difference? Do social movements do anything? This course looks at the most powerful institutions and organizations in the United States and tries to understand their roles in influencing public policy.

Primate Behavior

How close are humans to their cousins in the animal world? Students will be surprised to find out how closely non-human primate behavior reflects human behavior. In this class we will spend a quarter analyzing the various behavior patterns of lemurs, monkeys, and apes. We will study the various ethical issues related to the use of primates in medical experiments, and end the course with a glimpse at human evolution. The class will consist of videos, readings, discussions, presentations, and writing.

Psychology

This course will provide a basic introduction to the study of psychology by exploring the following topics: physiological psychology, sensations and perception, learning and cognition, motivation and emotion, and personality and social psychology. Each student will read one of three novels for the course: *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*, *H*, or *Girl, Interrupted*. There will be weekly book discussions and a final scored discussion on the novels. The final project consists of research on a topic chosen by the student.

Redefining Heroes and Heroines for the 21st Century

This class will explore the meaning and role of heroes and heroines in society, history, and across cultures. We will explore traditional heroes and popular culture heroes. We will read myths and explore heroes in mythology and read biographies and write an essay explaining the characteristics and values that are important to you in a hero. Each of you will choose several people to research as possible heroic figures in your life. This exploration will result in a performance or presentation and a report/paper.

Science and History

See description under Science.

Social Psychology

Social Psychology can be defined as “the scientific study of the way in which our thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the real or imagined presence of other people.” Take this class and find out how your behavior and that of others is affected by the world in which you live.

Sociology: Defining the American Identity

Who are we? What makes us Americans? How can we address the complex issues we are confronted with as we try to function as a multi-cultural society? In this course we will explore race, ethnicity, gender, and culture in American society. You will get an opportunity to examine your identity as a group member and begin to understand others through interactive experiences, projects and readings.

Sociology: Money, Culture, and Power

This class will explore the role that wealth and its pursuit plays in the United States. We will look at the striving, the getting, the failings, and its effects on individuals and groups. We will see how these issues and themes show up in popular culture and the arts.

Taking Social Action in Boulder

This course will ask a great deal of the students who enroll in it. The City of Boulder is partnering with New Vista to create opportunities for each student to work in a city agency on projects that are important to the community as a whole. You will report to your jobsite on Tuesday and Thursday mornings and have class at New Vista on Mondays and Fridays. Students who take this course will need to be flexible enough to find meaning and value in their community placement and responsible enough to work in city agencies. Additional learning will focus on the structures and processes of city, state, and federal governments and what is meant by being engaged in civic life. Students will also be required to attend periodic night-time meetings such as City Council.

US History: 1920's

In this class on the 1920's, students will explore what made this decade roar as well as crash. Popular culture created a national culture that changed the U.S. and the 20's are seen as a decade of serious cultural conflict. Students will explore: women's suffrage, nativism, the presidencies of Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, Prohibition, the KKK, the automobile, the Red Scare, the Scopes Trial, and the Harlem Renaissance. In this course we will also examine the intense creative activity of the 1920's which produced art, literature, music and theater for African-Americans and mainstream America. As a final project, students will produce a newspaper summarizing the events of the 20's, or write a piece of historical fiction.

US History: 1950's – A Developmental Class

The 50's were a changing time for the US – rock 'n roll, the atomic bomb and television. This course will look at the social life, politics, and history of this decade. Students who want to improve their social studies research skills should take this class. There will be lots of skill building with interesting readings, books, videos and newspapers.

US History: 1960's – A Developmental Class

The 1960's were a “happening” time and a major turning point in American social and political life. Civil Rights, Rock 'n Roll, and Vietnam are only some of the major issues. This course will cover the social life, politics, and history of this decade. Students who want to improve their social studies research skills should think about this class. There will be lots of skill building with interesting readings, books, videos and newspapers.

US History: The 1960's and the 1970's

In this class students will look at protest and reform during the 1960's and 1970's in the US. We will explore the emergence of the civil rights movement, the Kennedy era and assassination, Native American movements, Latino movements, the Feminist movement, and the counter-culture of the era. We will take an in-depth look at the Vietnam War, its causes and effects. Come explore this era of great change, growth, and controversy.

US History: Alaska and Hawaii

The 49th and 50th states of the Union – what were they before and how did they come to join the lower 48? This class will explore the history, geography and cultures – native and colonial of these two remote states.

US History: American Heroines

This is an opportunity to look at American history through the lives and actions of women, famous and unsung, who have shaped the American story. We will look at the lives of women from all segments of society across time to see what they have in common and how they differ.

US History: Boom to Bust: The Great Depression

Did the stock market crash of 1929 cause the Great Depression? Why should we care about the New Deal today? How was the culture impacted during this era? These and many questions will be answered in this course. We will examine the culture, politics, and economics of the 1920's and 1930's. This time period is one of the most influential in US History. We will look at the culture and economics of the 1920's, the causes of the Great Depression, the Dust Bowl, the New Deal, and the personal accounts of many people who lived through the era. Through readings, simulations, seminars, and research, students will make connections between the Depression Era and the U.S. today.

US History: British Colonial America

This course will explore the American experience prior to the Revolution, focusing on the relationship between Britain and her North American colonies. Issues relating to conflict between colonials and Native Americans will also be explored.

US History: Canada/U.S - What is Canadian about Canada?

Have you ever wondered what is unique about Canada, besides South Park, Tom Green and Pamela Anderson? Did you know that Canada is the largest trading partner with the United States? This course is designed to allow students to explore and examine the social, cultural, political and economic differences between the U.S. and Canada by using various forms of media.

US History: The Civil Rights Movement – From Martin Luther King to Malcolm X

This class will focus on the spectrum of movements that formed the American Civil Rights Movement. We will devote attention to two of its most prominent leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X. In this class we will also re-examine the historical context in which the Civil Rights Movement was birthed, as well as the events which shaped its development. We will use a required text (Alex Haley's *Malcolm X*), numerous readings, Socratic seminars, role plays, and films. Expect to read each week, engage in class discussions and express yourself in writing.

US History: The Civil War to Civil Rights

For hundreds of years the issues of slavery, classism, sexism, and other inequalities have had a huge impact on the United States. In this class we will have an opportunity to conduct an in-depth examination of a one hundred year period in which all of these issues burst into the national spotlight. We will also take the time to consider the legacies of these events and issues on America today.

US History: The Civil War and Reconstruction

The Civil War was the culmination of sectional warfare within the United States. This class will examine the reasons why the decision to fight was reached and how the social, political and economic systems changed during this time. Reconstruction will also be studied to determine what it did for the people and the country as a whole.

US History: The Cold War and Nuclear Weapons Race

The Cold War and arms race, which affected United States foreign policy and the social and economic life of the nation, has gone the way of civil defense shelters and air raid drills. This course will challenge students to understand those decisions and events which forced the nation to face global, environmental, and political threats. We will raise awareness and create interest in today's nuclear proliferation issues by examining the history of the Cold War. Students will participate in role plays, research historic events, and create a museum dedicated to remembering this time in our history.

US History: The Cold War

The Cold War dominated both American and global events for most of the 20th century and brought the threat of nuclear holocaust. In this course, we will examine three central questions: What caused the Cold War? Why did it last so long? When did it end? Using a variety of historical sources (political cartoons, film, and primary sources) we will examine the ideological differences between the US and USSR, the origins of the Cold War, key events and developments, such as the arms race, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the US and Soviet policies that lead to the collapse of the USSR.

US History: Colonial U.S. History

Beginning with America's first inhabitants, this course examines the history of the settling of North America, through the nation-building period, up to 1812. Students will learn about the native people and those who came to live in what is now the United States. The development of the colonies and their particular characteristics will be studied, as well as the tensions that led to the Revolutionary War. The debates over nation building, slavery, and the role of government are discussed in light of issues we still face today.

US History: Colorado

Why is Colorado the Centennial State? What happened to Zebulon Pike, and why should you care? Where is Ludlow, and why was there a massacre there? All of these questions, and many more, will be addressed in this class on the history of Colorado. We will look at the history of the state through different perspectives, including the Native American groups that have called Colorado home for thousands of years, various immigrant groups that have struggled and thrived here, and the working class who shaped the political and economic landscape of Colorado. Furthermore, this class will hopefully include some opportunities for off-campus learning experiences in the form of field trips to local historical landmarks and museums.

US History: Developmental

This class is for students who need to improve their basic social studies skills including: note taking, doing research, making poster boards, executing final projects, participating in discussions, and working in small groups. The subject matter will be selected topics in U. S. History.

US History: Fact or Fiction?

Where do you get your history? Often Hollywood releases blockbuster films about history, and in this class we will have an opportunity to see how historically accurate, or inaccurate, these movies really are. This trimester-long class will be structured as a survey of US History, and for every unit, we will watch a film based on the events we have studied. We will also critically examine the ways in which filmmakers portray US History, as well as come up with our own ideas for how an event in US History ought to be represented on the big screen.

US History: Foreign Policy

What is foreign policy and what factors determine its course? In this class we will analyze the motives, actions, and results of our nation's international policies. We will examine numerous case studies and discuss their significance on a national and international scale. Students will be expected to complete written assignments, participate in class discussions and debates, read numerous texts, and present their own foreign policy case study.

US History: Gilded Age: U.S. at the Turn of the Century (1890-1915)

In this course students should develop an understanding of the main themes of the historical development of the United States during the turn of the century, when the nation evolved from a mostly rural, agrarian society to an urbanized and industrialized world power. Students will explore those themes through reading primary and secondary sources from those who grappled with the problems of "big business," political corruption, immigration, ethnic diversity and racism, "the labor question," and imperialism. Students will display the results of their explorations through carefully written and presented papers, and through a final project.

US History: Global Power

As the sole remaining super power, the United States finds itself in a position of both impressive global power and vulnerability. The U.S. Role on the global stage seems filled with contradiction and complexity. We begin with the present as we examine the question, What should the US role on the global stage be? We will then trace the growth of the US as a global power through a variety of issues and foreign policy decisions and actions in the late 19th and 20th centuries.

US History: History through Disease

This course will focus on the time period from antebellum U.S. to the present. Students will have the opportunity to understand how issues related to diseases have affected the lives of Americans. Topics include theories of disease causation, treatment, hospitals, the development of the medical professions, epidemics and public health strategies. We will examine the ways in which gender, race and class have affected the development of medicine and the health opportunities available to citizens.

US History: Immigration

With the exception of the native peoples of this continent and the Africans brought forcibly as slaves, every inhabitant of the United States is an immigrant or the descendant of immigrants. Throughout the history of this nation controversies over which kinds of immigrants and how many of them should be allowed in at any given time periodically erupt. We are in one such moment now. In order to understand today's debates over immigration and immigration reform, this course will deal with the history and context of this controversial social issue.

US History: Local History

Have you ever wondered how Prohibition or the Great Depression or the rise of the Ku Klux Klan affected people in Boulder? Or how people responded to the Vietnam War in Boulder? In this class you will examine events in US history from here – Colorado and more specifically Boulder. Using local history resources such as Colorado Historical Society and the Carnegie Library we will examine what major historical periods, events and themes looked like in Boulder. We will visit local historic landmarks and museums, and conduct research at the Carnegie Library to answer these questions.

US History: Native American History

This class will focus on post-European contact native experiences. We will explore American History from the perspective of native peoples. We will learn concepts of historiography, how American identity has both adopted native peoples, as well as, rejected them, and explore the modern day issues of Native American cultural identity within the contemporary world.

US History: The Nineteenth Century

In the year 1800, the United States was a loose collection of 13 former colonies on the east coast, still a weak and young nation at just 13 years old. During the middle of the century, the country was torn in half by civil war and the future of the Union seemed to be in doubt. By the turn of the century, however, the United States was an industrial powerhouse, stretching to the Pacific Ocean and beyond, arguably the strongest country in the world, but not without its problems. In this course, we'll examine the events of the 1800's in American history, including westward expansion, relations with Native Americans, the causes of the Civil War, post war reconstruction and industrialization.

US History: People's History of the U.S.

This is a history course that uses the book of the same title by Howard Zinn as the central text. Students will begin the course by examining the concept of "people's history" using underground newspapers from the late 1960's and early 1970's. This will lead to a working definition of people's history. Next, students will begin their study of Howard Zinn's book, currently a standard college and graduate history course text. The last major activity will be an independent "I-Search" project in which students undertake to learn in depth about a topic related to people's history.

US History: The Presidency

The role and responsibilities of the US president have grown throughout American history, and today are reaching a new height. In this class we will study how the office, power, and prestige of the presidency have changed and developed through US history. Most of our attention will be focused on the 20th century, but we will also look at the early office of the presidency in the 18th century. As we examine the presidency, we will focus on what presidents increased the power of the office and how they did it.

US History: Protest and Reform

This course will cover the American Revolution, abolition, women's suffrage, the Progressives, and the anti-war movement of the 1960's as forms of protest. We will explore the profound changes each social movement created in our society and examine a model which serves as an explanation of citizen dissatisfaction leading to revolution. A significant aspect of the course will be to work with experts from the Center for Lifelong Learning and Design at C.U. to develop computer models and simulations of protest movements and concepts.

US History: Protest and Reform Through Film and Literature

This class will explore the history of protests and social/political activism in U.S. history through short stories, novels, and weekly films. Writing essays and reading literature will be major components of this class.

US History: Revolution and Reform: The 1960's and 1970's

Do you wish you could have been at Woodstock? Learn about the people who were there, the artists who performed, and the social environment that spawned such an event. This class will explore the social revolutions and reforms that occurred in the United States in the 1960's and 70's. We will begin the class by learning how the 60's and 70's emerged as a reaction to the oppressive Cold War era and the 1950's. You will learn about the social reaction towards the Vietnam War and the government overall. You will also learn about the Civil Rights Movement and how it influenced other groups to seek equal rights including women and LGBT people. In addition, we will learn about the sexual revolution and how the American people learned how to redefine themselves and their sexuality. Furthermore, we will explore the emergence of rock and roll in the 60's and 70's and determine how the music became a social and political commentary and the affect music had on American society and politics.

US History: Revolution to Constitution

This class examines one of the most important periods in U.S. history. The process of breaking from England, fighting a revolution, and writing the Constitution provides ground for multiple forms of analysis. Students will spend time researching significant figures, events, and social movements of the period. Students should expect to take part in significant research writing and critical thinking.

US History: Three Cultures in Colonial America

This course will examine topics and events in Colonial History from the perspective of European settlers, African slaves and the Native American peoples in the regions of settlement.

US History: The Twentieth Century

During this quarter, the 20th century (as commonly, if mistakenly, figured) will end and the 21st will begin. This course will explore the significant events of the 20th century from wars to efforts at world peace to the extraordinary changes in technology and human values in the United States. A central focus of the course will be extensive use of the internet for conducting research and presenting projects.

US History: 20th Century Social, Political, and Protest Movements

Throughout American history there have been countless people who have stood up for not only their rights, but the rights of others as well. These people challenged the framework of American law and culture by exposing the inequalities and disparities within society. This class will examine both the people and the processes that changed the course of American history. By focusing on the 20th century, we will look at many of the social and political movements that still have lasting impact today. We will study the Labor Movement of the early 1900's, Women's Suffrage Movement, Chicano Movement, McCarthyism and the Communist Movement, Civil Rights Movement, Feminist Movement, Vietnam protests, and the Battle in Seattle, to name a few.

US History: The United States in World War II

In this class we will examine the causes of World War II from the U.S. perspective, isolationism, life on the home front, and the outcomes of the war for U.S. society. Topics to explore include, but are not limited to: limits on freedom of expression during wartime, internment of Japanese-Americans, the advent of the baby boomers and the growth of the suburbs following the war, as well as the birth of the Cold War. Expect to read a novel, too!

US History: Urban History

This class will take an in-depth look at 2 or 3 of our major urban areas to look at important issues in American history. We will examine why cities arise where they do, how they are impacted by immigration, suburbanization, and globalization. We will also examine the art, music, and literature that captures the spirits of the cities and the people who inhabit them.

US History: Urban History - Chicago

This course will study the history, politics, culture, and impact of the city of Chicago on our country. We will explore the early history the city and the amazing changes of the last two centuries. The 20th century will be the bulk of the course focus. Chicago has always been an exciting city with fascinating events and people. The course will focus on Chicago's political, cultural, economic, and historical influence and the people who lived in the "Second City".

US History: Urban History – Los Angeles

Why is this city the home of Hollywood, the movies, fashion design, surfing, and the California lifestyle? Why did the Rodney King beating and subsequent uprising occur? Students will study how the location of Los Angeles has affected the city's development and history. This will bring up issues of colonization, immigration, race, class, and pluralism. It is difficult to discuss these issues without examining the stereotypes relating to L.A. and the influence it has on our popular culture. We will read about Los Angeles in a novel, in essays, and in poems. Students will research one aspect of the history of Los Angeles, read a novel, write essays, keep a notebook, and produce a magazine on the city as a final project.

US History: Urban History - New York City

The Big Apple, has played an unparalleled role in shaping the nation. In this course we will examine how and why New York came to be what it is today. We will explore issues of colonization, immigration, race, class and pluralism through the history of New York. We will also look at how its location has influenced its development, place in history and current events. And finally, we will look at its influence on popular culture.

US History: Vietnam

We will examine the historical, geographical, political and psychological aspects of the Vietnam War. Students will read a novel, conduct an oral history, critique a film, create a timeline that illustrates significant events, and conduct a note card research paper. Students may choose a variety of ways to complete these projects.

US History: The West

Is the story of the west one of expansion or conquest? What do we really know about cowboys and Indians? What issues faced the gunfighter, cattle rustler, Mexican farmer, women, and the Ancient Puebloans that we are still worrying about today? Using fiction, art, diaries, history and films this class explores what “the west” really means. Students will have the opportunity to earn Applied Tech credit by creating videos that explore these issues in contemporary Boulder.

US History: World War II – Present

In this course students will examine the most recent half century of American history thematically. Using a variety of primary sources (including films, magazines, music, and historical documents) you will explore the themes of consumerism and affluence, family, civil rights, immigration, and politics. For each of these themes you will also be examining the question of what has changed and what has remained the same over the course of these decades.

World Geography

World Geography provides you with the skills and knowledge to better understand how people interact with the land, both historically and today. We will study local and world regions, climates, population issues, cities, trade, environmental issues, economic development, and natural hazards (tornadoes, floods, etc.). Students may choose a variety of topics for their projects.

World Health

This class will look at contemporary health issues around the world. We will compare the health system in the United States to that of other wealthy countries, as well as look at health issues in the developing world. AIDS, tuberculosis, contagious diseases and issues of basic food and sanitation will be some of the topics we consider. Expect to read, write and do a research project on a topic of your choice.

World History (Advanced Topics): Revolutions

This class will take the concept of Revolution and analyze its relevance at various moments in history. We will specifically spend time learning about the Chinese, American, Scientific and if possible French revolutions. Students should expect to do some intensive writing and discussions, to focus on critical thinking skills and to learn to think like a historian.

World History: African Studies

Africa is a huge continent, home to a wide variety of peoples. In this course, we will explore the basic geography and history of the continent, and then focus on important historical events. Some topics will include the history of African empires, independence movements, the genocide in Rwanda, and the end of Apartheid in South Africa. Plan to read a short novel and work on expository writing skills.

World History: Ancient and Classical Civilizations

This class will explore past civilizations from around the world. Students will begin by studying Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt. Roman, Greek, Inca, Aztec, and Mayan cultures will follow. After an overview of these societies, students will complete an in-depth study of the culture they find most interesting.

World History: Armenia

In this course we will use digital cameras and the Internet to create and exchange documentary photography and projects with students in a school in Yerevan, Armenia. Armenia is a post-Soviet country in the northern Middle East. Photography projects will include “A Day in My Life” and projects about our society based on topics of your choice. If you are curious about other cultures and want to learn more about photography, this is the class for you!

World History: Australia

We will study the history and development of Australia and the surrounding Oceania region. We will also look at the geography, culture and modern lifestyles which were instrumental in gaining the 2000 Olympic berth and the attention of the Survivor II series.

World History: Chinese History

This is a quarter-long course which will familiarize students with basic and fundamental concepts in Chinese History. The class will concentrate on major themes such as Confucianism, dynastic cycles, rebellions, cultural flowering, and barbarian invasions. These themes represent major forces in the development of Chinese culture and society. We cannot cover all dynasties and therefore will explore selected time periods as case studies. These include the Warring States Period and the 100 Schools, the Han Dynasty and the rise of Confucianism, the art of the Song Dynasty, the Ming Dynasty and the arrival of Europeans, the Opium Wars and foreign invaders, the Revolution of 1911, and the Cultural Revolution. Expect to conduct extensive research, write papers, participate in class discussions, complete readings every week, and give class presentations. Students will end the quarter by examining and determining the events surrounding the Great Chinese Revolution.

World History: Colonialism

Why is English an official language of India? Why are there French islands in the middle of the Caribbean? These and many other examples are the legacies of colonialism, a chapter in world history where powerful countries expanded into massive empires. In this class, we will aim to understand how colonialism gave rise to many important relationships and conflicts of the modern world

World History: Comparative History

Have you ever wondered if historical events, separated by time and space, have anything in common? This course will concentrate on comparing various events in world history by analyzing historical themes, processes, and examining historical relationships. This class will also concentrate on skills associated with researching and writing history. Students are expected to conduct extensive research, write papers, participate in class discussions, and complete readings every week. Students will end the quarter by composing a college level research paper on a comparative history topic of their choice.

Prerequisites: Three Social Studies Courses and One Composition/Writing Class with grades better than B-

World History – Ancient Roots of Modern Conflict

Throughout the world conflicts are being waged on a daily basis. In this class we will look at the roots of these conflicts. We will examine the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the war in Sudan, the ongoing tension between North and South Korea, and many other examples of contemporary conflicts with deep roots. You will also have your own opportunity to study the history of a conflict of your choice in some depth.

World History: Developmental

This class is for students who need to improve their basic social studies skills including: note taking, doing research, making poster boards, executing final projects, participating in discussions and working in small groups. The subject matter will be selected topics in World History.

World History: Europe at War

Did you ever wonder how England became England? France, France? Germany, Germany? Believe it or not, most European nations find their origins in the wars of the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. Europe at War will examine how modern nation states came into existence based on the need for supporting massive wars. Some nations survived to become world powers. Others, like France, ended their era of dominance in violent revolution. Class activities include writing, reading, discussing, presenting projects, and role playing.

World History: European History

Rather than survey Europe's extensive history, this class will assume a topical approach. Through analysis of various time periods and events, we will track the development and significance of European history. We will discover how each period under consideration connects to modern European culture and society. Topics covered include, but are not limited to, the Roman Republic and Empire, Medieval philosophy and religion, gender issues in Elizabethan England, war and the rise of the modern European state, and French Revolutionary culture. Students will engage in significant amounts of reading, essay writing, and class discussion. A final research project demonstrating the significance of a particular event in European history will conclude the quarter.

World History: Food in History

Changes in food supply caused many of the major changes in cultures and civilizations throughout pre-history and history. This course will examine the history of food, agriculture and the civilizations impacted by exchange, trade and politics of food. Students will research three different topics as the major projects in this course.

World History: Galileo and The Crucible

Would you change your beliefs if it kept you from going to jail or would you stand by your opinions? Many people have been pressured to conform when they have held unpopular views. They have been persecuted for this and their individual freedoms have been denied. This class will look at the scientist, Galileo, and the Salem Witch trials as two time periods where faith, community values, and freedom clashed. Class activities include discussions, readings, journals, and a project. Students do not need to be in the play to take the class.

World History: Guns, Germs, and Steel

We will use Jared Diamond's bestseller, *Guns Germs and Steel*, as our text. In an effort to uncover the roots of global inequalities this course will trace humanity's journey over the last 13,000 years. Students will understand what fundamental geographic differences can explain how and why history followed different courses for different people? This course will use a variety of texts and students will be expected to participate in research projects, Socratic seminars, and role-plays.

World History: Great Personalities in World History

There are a variety of ways to study world history. In this class we will be doing it through various individuals who, through their contributions, have helped shape not only their time periods, but the future as well. Many of the personalities we will be studying may seem obscure. In other words, we will not be studying "the most famous". However, you will have the opportunity to choose a "more famous" personality as part of the larger class project.

World History: Greece and Rome

A surprising number of ideas and innovations from the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome remain important to modern American society. Looking at what remains from these civilizations (their art works, remains of ancient cities, recorded history, et cetera) you will gain an overview of these civilizations and how they have impacted modern western society. You will explore both the actions of key agents, such as emperors and leaders, as well as the daily life of average people.

World History: History of Ireland

In this course students will learn the fascinating details of Celtic culture, blow-by-blow accounts of Ireland's struggle for freedom for British rule, and the tales of great Irish heroes and heroines. In addition, we will explore Ireland's rich cultural traditions, and examine profiles of Irish icons in politics and the arts. This course will be a study in Ireland's past, present, and future.

World History: History of Mexico

This course follows the history of Mexico from pre-colonial indigenous cultures through the Spanish colonization and into present day Mexico. Some of the topics covered in the course include the geography, culture and politics that have shaped the lives of Mexicans for thousands of years. Students will also have an opportunity to read Mexican literature (in Spanish or in translation) and learn about the present state of affairs in the country.

World History: International Relations

The subtitle of this course is “Preventing Deadly Conflicts.” Research and theories from the work of peace studies will be applied to several long-standing international conflicts. The goal is to help students explore the question of whether there are adequate alternatives to war.

World History: Japan - History and Culture

The course focuses on the culture and history of Japan in order to learn about this global power. Through literature, events in history, art, hands-on materials, field trips and Japanese students as resources, we will examine another culture and learn about our own as well.

World History: Latin American Studies

The focus of this class is on the geography, culture, history, and politics of the nations south of the Rio Grande River. Students will research individual Latin American countries and create maps as a way of developing a sense of the physical geography of the region. We will also explore the overall history of the area. Other projects will include reading regional literature and conducting individual research on a contemporary issue facing Latin America.

World History: Mass Violence and Social Justice

Throughout the course of the 20th century the phenomenon of genocide and mass violence became all too frequent. On every continent throughout the last century people have been excluded, segregated, degraded, publicly humiliated, lived in societies where anyone could be a spy working for a totalitarian government, subjected to systematic violence at the hands of the government officials, and ultimately been murdered in mass quantities based solely on a perceived difference or “otherness” from the group holding power. In this class we will examine the roots of some instances of mass violence, as well as learn about the events themselves. Finally we will consider any attempts at creating social justice and accountability in these different cases, and whether or not they had any lasting effect. This class will be looking at several different case studies, and students will also have the opportunity to work independently to research their own case study with the class.

World History: Middle East History

What could be more relevant than a course about the history, culture, and politics of the Middle East? This class will be an opportunity to try to understand all sides of recent and historical conflicts and to understand the pivotal role this region plays in world politics.

World History: Modern World Economics

Focusing on twentieth century, this class will consider how the history of international development, economics and international affairs, has created our modern world. Principles of international trade and finance will be analyzed as well as ideas relating to international development. The focus will be on three questions: what does development mean? Who carries out development? What are the effects of development? The class will also examine the role of various multi-lateral organizations such as the World Trade Organization, the World Bank and the IMF. Lastly, case studies of diverse development projects such as dams, education and eco-tourism will be explored to analyze different approaches to development.

World History: Early Modern European History (aka The Renaissance)

In this course we will examine the “rebirth” of culture in Western Europe following the Dark Ages. What social, economic, geographic, and political forces led to the changes captured in the word “renaissance”? Take this course and find out.

World History: Russian History

Russia has seen tremendous change over the past century. This course will trace the history of this country from the late 19th century to present. Topics will include the revolutionary period, the cultural ferment of the 1920s, Stalinism, the Cold War, the Thaw, the culture of dissent, and the collapse of the Soviet system.

World History: Twentieth Century Eastern Europe

This course will focus on the rise and fall of Communism in Eastern Europe. We will explore the role of this region during the World Wars, life under Communism, the overthrow of Communism, and the struggles facing this region today. Students will do research for projects, learn from guest speakers, and engage in discussion surrounding the politics of Eastern Europe.

World History: World History through Human Rights

In this block you will learn about aspects of world history through the study of human rights. Two basic themes run through this course: oppression and resistance to oppression. The course begins with a study of individuals who have resisted oppression and then moves to a study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with an emphasis on understanding the death penalty as a particular human rights issue. Each student will be expected to identify an aspect from world history that involves oppression and the resistance to oppression and complete an independent project on it. You will also be encouraged to identify an area in the school or community where human rights are in question and to learn more about it.

World History: World Religions

This course will be dedicated to the study of religions around the world. Together we will investigate what a religion is and how religion affects individuals, cultures, and the world. We will also spend time comparing the similarities and differences between religions. A portion of the class will be spent studying the “Big Five” religions of the world: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Students will also have the opportunity to research a religion of their own particular interest. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and readings, submit written assignments and turn in a final project.

World History through Technology

In this course, we’ll examine how various technological breakthroughs have affected the history of the world. The class will focus on technological advancements in agriculture, transportation, communication, warfare, medicine and quality of life. We’ll also consider how future technologies may shape the world.

World History: World War II

What comes to mind when you think of WWII? In this class we’ll look at the origins of World War II throughout the world. Also, we’ll consider the war itself and the impact that the fighting had on a wide variety of people. To finish out the quarter this class will examine the legacies, both positive and negative, of this conflict.

World Languages

American Sign Language IA

This class provides the foundation for all of the ASL classes at New Vista and is a prerequisite subsequent ASL classes. Students will build vocabulary and learn the basic shifts to ASL grammar. They will master the reception and production of the manual alphabet. By the end of this quarter students should be able to carry the thread of an ASL story, read simple conversation discourse without the aid of hearing the human voice, and have a strong grasp of reading and signing all vocabulary words (a minimum of 1,000).

American Sign Language IB

In this class we will continue the work we started in ASL IA. Students at this point must have a genuine willingness to attempt shifting conversations into silent mode. I request that everything be signed first silently to help people build reception and syntax. We may occasionally fall back on voice for clarification. This should be necessary less and less. Students must present a lesson on a topic of their choosing solely in ASL and the rest of the class must write what they see for the final test. Students are also required to do a performance piece of their choice for the class on the last day of class.

American Sign Language IIA

You must be willing to strive for silent communication in order to be in this class. Students will have interaction with various deaf people in the community and this interaction will be graded. Students will continue to expand vocabulary, cultural awareness, grammar, and fluid use of classifiers. A new performance piece is required.

American Sign Language IIB

This is an absolutely silent class. Weekly “living the language” field trips are a big part of the grade. Students will be required to do some research on the history of ASL, deaf culture, and the deaf community. We encourage students to be liaisons to deaf teens and to volunteer for other ASL activities. Students must teach the class something in ASL with an emphasis on more complexity and depth than the first ASL lesson of the previous year. Several different number systems will be mastered.

American Sign Language Review

This class is for students who completed ASL IA and would like to take ASL IIA. The class is for students who earned less than an A in ASL IA/B or would just like an opportunity to review prior to ASL II.

American Sign Language Through Dramatic Arts

Explore dramatic arts, such as Poetry, Storytelling, and Theatre in American Sign Language (ASL). This third trimester class will allow students who have completed at least ASL IA and IB coursework to work creatively in this language. They will study Deaf ASL poets and be encouraged to create their own poetry; they will study master storytellers and learn to incorporate gesture and expression in their own signed stories; and they will study theatrical works performed in ASL and perform them in groups. Students will also learn how to analyze a written text and interpret it into ASL in a way that is artistic and “performance ready”.
Prerequisite: American Sign Language IB

American Sign Language through Story Telling

American Sign Language through Theater

This seminar is for students who have completed all fundamental ASL classes taught at NVHS. It is a rigorous and advanced class for those wishing to further their ASL skills and also for those who are considering a career in ASL interpreting. We will explore the following plays: Children of a Lesser God, Educating Rita, Sign Me Alice (a spoof of My Fair Lady) and Laurent Clerc: A Profile. We will perform at least one of these plays. Students should anticipate after-school rehearsals, techs, and performances.

Hispanic Literature

This course is an introduction to literary analysis, with selected readings from Spanish and Latin- American literature, aimed primarily at students who have completed Spanish IIB (and are planning to progress to the next level) or those who are native speakers of Spanish. The readings have been structured to provide the opportunity to become familiar with a delightful selection of classical pieces by many significant writers. Among the genres explored will be legends, fables, short stories and poetry. The class will include basic literary analysis, personal exploration, simple oral and written questionnaires, as well as Socratic seminars, both in English and Spanish. The readings derive from the best and most genuine Hispanic tradition and reveal the way of life and psychology of the Spanish-speaking people. The goal of this class is to encourage students to cultivate a taste for good literature.

Requirements: Spanish 2B or above and enjoyment of literature.

Spanish IA

This practical, beginning class will emphasize an oral approach to expressions for situations commonly found in Spanish-speaking cultures. Reading and writing skills will be introduced through typical contexts in the culture. Speaking will be the focus of this course. Student-created mini-dramas and skits will be performed frequently. Topics include greetings, introductions, geography of Hispanic countries, descriptions of people/objects, present tense of basic verbs, locations, time, numbers, daily activities in and out of school, community, likes and dislikes, family, age, birthdays, professions and cultural information.

Spanish IB

This course is part two of the beginning level. Active oral communication will be encouraged, as well as the growth of reading and writing skills. Topics include clothing, asking/giving directions, giving orders, foods, daily routines, introduction of the past (preterit) tense, exchanging money, accepting/declining invitations, sports, physical condition, parts of a house, comparisons, and the present progressive tense, all within the cultural contexts of the Spanish language. There will be lots of pair and group work.

Prerequisite: Spanish IA at NVHS or another school.

Spanish IIA

This course introduces students to the intermediate level of the language. Now that the basics have been covered, students will learn about expressing favorite activities, shopping, possessions, the preterit (past tense), vacations, environment and diversity, comparisons, weather, directions, advising, commands, chores, and the introduction of the imperfect tense. Again, emphasis will be placed on oral communication. The goal is to increase confidence and enjoyment of the language. Cooperative learning will be the most important approach.

Requirements: Spanish 1B at NVHS or another school

Spanish IIB

This course is designed to develop the more sophisticated stages of listening, speaking, reading and writing competency in Spanish. Students will perform a variety of language functions: to list, ask questions, describe, give and follow directions, narrate, express and defend opinions, hypothesize, etc. Students will learn to perform in a multiplicity of contexts, for example: at home, in school, in the community, at work, when traveling, while shopping and while playing. Art and literature will also be examined. All tasks will be performed with an appropriate level of accuracy. Topics include: relative pronouns, subjunctive with conjunctions and with impersonal expressions, irregular past participle and past participle as adjective, passive voice, future imperfect subjunctive, probability, progressive imperfect, the conditional, and the pluscuamper-fecto. Guest speakers and community members will be invited so that students can practice the language in more authentic situations.

Prerequisite: Spanish IIA or enrichment courses

Spanish IIIA

This is a course for those students with a strong practical knowledge of the language and culture. Here students will expand their vocabulary and grammar acquisition to the point at which they can almost be easily understood by a native speaker. Students will be able to communicate more fluently in Spanish and have fun doing it. Some literature will be explored and lots of skits/performances will be practiced. Students will also learn through their peers by acting as student teachers for each other. Topics include: a deep review of topics covered in the past courses with the use of the subjunctive, the present perfect, “if” clauses, commands with direct and indirect object pronouns, the future, the conditional, and a list of more sophisticated expressions. Students will write to pen pals from Spanish-speaking countries and practice their grammar through the use of our Spanish CD-ROM.

Prerequisites: Spanish IIB and enrichment courses

Spanish IIIB

This course is designed to develop the more sophisticated stages of listening, speaking, reading and writing competency in Spanish. Students will perform a variety of language functions: to list, ask questions, describe, give and follow directions, narrate, express and defend opinions, hypothesize, etc. Students will learn to perform in a multiplicity of contexts, for example: at home, in school, in the community, at work, when traveling, while shopping and while playing. Art and literature will also be examined. All tasks will be performed with an appropriate level of accuracy. Topics include: relative pronouns, subjunctive with conjunctions and with impersonal expressions, irregular past participle and past participle as adjective, passive voice, future, imperfect subjunctive, probability, progressive imperfect, the conditional and the pluscuamper-fecto. Guest speakers and community members will be invited so that students can practice the language in more authentic situations.

Prerequisite: Successful completion or Spanish IIIA and enrichment courses

Spanish Culture From Around the World

This is a chance to keep practicing your spoken Spanish and learn much more about the various Hispanic traditions throughout the world, including the U.S. Using the web and other traditional research methods, we will look at a variety of topics including art, culture, politics and social events. We will also have a chance to share in the travel adventures of guest speakers. Remember, you will be speaking conversational Spanish each day in order to maintain your skills.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish IB. (Students who have completed Spanish IIB and are waiting to take Spanish IIIA will also benefit from this class.)

Spanish Review

This class is for students who need to review either Spanish IB or 2B before going on to the next level of study. Students have been pre-assigned to this class and need advisor permission to withdraw.

Spanish through Theater

The class will select a classic fairy tale and turn it into a Spanish language comedic theater production. The production will tour bilingual elementary school classrooms in the district.

Tradiciones de America (en Espanol)

In this class students will be introduced to the myths, legends and stories that reveal the culture of Mexico and other Spanish-speaking countries of the Americas. Students will be reading, writing and discussing in Spanish. There will probably be some very small mini-lessons to review grammar as needed. This class is intended for students who have completed Spanish 2B or even Spanish 3B or have Spanish as their first language. It is perfect for students who want to practice their skills before Spanish 3A or extend the skills they learned in Spanish 3B.