

7TH - 12TH GRADE ELECTIVE COURSE CATALOG



COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

Think you want to go to college but don't know what to expect? This elective course will cover the basics of what universities are and how some are different from others. The class will also explore kinds of degrees universities offer and what it takes to achieve them. Later in the semester our discussion will turn to the role of professional degrees and graduate schools. As a class we will also plan field trips to BYU, U of U, and UVU to get first-hand experience from local institutions.

CREATIVE WRITING

Have you ever had a great idea for a story but just couldn't put it into words? This language arts elective course will instruct students in the basics of pre-writing, editing and revision for creative writing of fiction and poetry. Each period students will have time to work on their own creative writing projects and at the end of the term will turn in a portfolio of work for which they will receive a grade. As work for this course is primarily self-guided, only students interested in writing are advised to register. Class may be repeated multiple times.

DRAMA (10-12)

If all the world really is a stage, then those of us performing on it should learn how to act our part a little better. This class will cover the history of theater, perfect auditioning skills and perform class plays. Perhaps more importantly, this class will discuss the responsibility, importance and power of theater to lift and inspire change in an audience for the better by performing a class written and produced community outreach program using the skills to promote and share values.

H.S. SEMINAR

This class is a continuation of Liberty's successful seminar program. This year the students will gain the luxury of being mentored by two dynamic teachers in the seminar, affording more personal attention to each student's progress. Students will be mentored in English and History with emphasis on original sources, literature, discussion, debate and personal responsibility. The goal of the course is to mentor students to develop critical thinking, discussion, writing, speaking and research skills as well as to help each student develop a love of learning. Students will be expected to maintain and support the culture of learning as set forth by the class. Strong parental support and involvement is highly requested.

In this seminar students will study foundational ideas and values of the societies of the world as they look at ancient literature including writings of Egypt, Confucius, Lao Tzu, Zarathustra, Ghandi, Aristotle and Plato among others with emphasis on searching for and appreciating that which is virtuous and uplifting from these cultures. They will study ancient history leading up to Renaissance Europe. In their English studies students will explore how these ideas manifest themselves in literature from various cultures and time periods. Students will also explore the creative process and will be mentored in implementing stronger creativity and effectiveness in their writing, speech and presentation skills.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

How do countries know when it is better to go to war or better to negotiate for peace? Is it possible to predict the way states will behave if they are threatened? What is the most effective way of dealing with a state that is aggressive or warlike? In this elective political science course we will explore the answers to these and many more questions of state behavior through a study of the theories of international relations and role playing outcomes through computer simulations! Students will be assessed on active participation in the simulations and a semester final.

JR. HIGH SEMINAR

This class is an expansion of Liberty's successful seminar program. This year the students will gain the luxury of being mentored by two dynamic teachers in the seminar, affording more personal attention to each student's progress. Students will be mentored in English and History with emphasis on original sources, literature, discussion, debate and personal responsibility. The goal of the course is to mentor students to develop critical thinking, discussion, writing, speaking and research skills as well as to help each student develop a love of learning. Students will be expected to maintain and support the culture of learning as set forth by the class. Strong parental support and involvement is highly requested.

In this seminar students will study the lives and writings of the Founders of the United States of America as well as the events, issues, debates and principles that lead to our Constitutional Government. In their English studies students will study the journey, struggle and triumph of the Hero as portrayed in story-telling, literature, legend and myth from various time periods and cultures.

Students will also explore the creative process and will be mentored in implementing stronger creativity and effectiveness in their writing, speech and presentation skills.

JOURNALISM

In this course students will hone skills of writing under pressure, working as a team for a unified goal, and gathering adequate information for assignments with the intent of producing a newspaper and literary magazine for the school. Students will also become more adept at reading, interpreting, and forming opinions about the news so that they can become more responsible members of their community. We will also work in conjunction with the multimedia class to produce short film documentaries about Liberty for the yearbook.

LITERATURE AND FILM

Most films that are successful recently are adaptations from popular books and stories. In spite of their success, most people will respond to the film by grudgingly saying that the film "wasn't like the book." In this class, we will discuss Adaptation Theory and the varying strengths and weaknesses of both text and film. Students will also gain greater skills in film analysis which will equip them to become more responsible viewers of all forms of media.

MULTIMEDIA

Multimedia is a true 21st Century communication skill. In the internet age multimedia is how people share ideas. Students in this course will develop skills of multimedia creation using Liberty's new Multimedia Studio. Students will be involved in the exciting activity of hands-on movie making and be trained in the creative potential of film, animation and graphics. Students will be trained on industry standard software including Premiere, After Effects, Photoshop and Encore among others. The students will work in connection with other classes to create documentaries, films, podcasts, special effects and Liberty's DVD Yearbook.

PERFORMING/PRESENTATION ARTS - CTE (7-9)

This course is for students who want fun, hands on projects to perfect their skills of communication and presentation in front of an audience. We will learn more about how to communicate ideas effectively, through storytelling, short class plays, media presentations, and ultimately work in a community outreach program using the skills to promote and share values.

POPULAR SOCIOLOGY

Why is football so popular in the United States but not in Europe? What makes country music popular in Nashville but not in Los Angeles? Why do men wear formal kilts in Scotland and nice suits in Italy when dressing to impress? The answers to these questions and others about what makes something popular are at the heart of a social science called sociology. This elective course will introduce the concepts of norms, nationalism, identity and identity formation through the context of popular music, film, fashion and sports. Assessment for the course will be based on daily participation and assignments as well as the course final.

WAR! I: ANCIENT CONQUEST

This elective history course will take an in depth look at the battles, strategies, tactics and military technologies of campaigns for conquest and defense of ancient civilizations. Specifically the course will highlight the wars of ancient Greece, China, Egypt as well as feudal Japan, imperial Russia and medieval Europe will be examined. Students will be assigned thematic projects each term consisting of reports and 3-D representations. Daily participation and active learning will be fostered through hands-on experiences and both scale and live battle reenactments.

WAR! II: MODERN WARFARE

This elective history course will take an in depth look at the battles, strategies, tactics and military technologies of WWI, WWII, and the modern conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Students will be assigned thematic projects each term consisting of reports and 3-D representations. Daily participation and active learning will be fostered through hands-on experiences and scale and live battle reenactments as well as multimedia and guest speakers.

PSYCHOLOGY:

Psychology (1 semester class) Psychology is the study of behavior and mental process. This class will answer some of the following questions:

How much of a person's behavior is inherited?

Are I.Q. Test valid?

What is the best way to learn?

Does ESP really exist?

What is "abnormal behavior"?

What kind of jobs do psychologists get?

These are just a sample of topics that we will discuss in our psychology class.

SOCIOLOGY (2 SEMESTER CLASS)

More than 6 billion people live on this planet. Imagine for a moment that we could reduce that number down to a village of 1000 people. How many would be Chinese? How many would be hungry? How many could not read? How many would live in fear? How many would be children under the age of 18? How many would be Christian? How many would be killed in conflict? Sociology is the study of human society of which we are all a part of.

STREET LAW

The goals of this class are: to provide a practical understanding of law and the legal system that will be of use to students in their everyday lives; to encourage effective citizen participation in our legal system and bring about a greater sense of justice, tolerance, and fairness; to improve basic skills, including critical thinking and reasoning, communication, observation, and problem solving.

SPEECH & DEBATE: (2 SEMESTER CLASS)

Students will develop skills in presentations, impromptu speaking, individual and team debates. Research will be a big part of this class with critical thinking skills being emphasized.

GOLF CLASS/CLUB

What is better than hitting that golf ball straight down the fairway on a beautiful fall afternoon? Rolling that 20 foot putt into the cup! Being around your friends enjoying the day as you perfect your skills on the golf course. This class welcomes all levels, but to be apart of this class, each person will have to have their own set of clubs. We will be playing golf up the hill at Gladston Golf course. It is time to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors.

OPEN COURT

If you see yourself as the next LeBron James, or if you just want to learn a new sport this basketball class is for you. We will learn the rules, defenses and different skills necessary to play basketball so all can feel the rush of that last second shot that wins the game. Requirements are, basketball clothing that is in line with the dress code. Good basketball shoes and a teachable attitude. We will be having one- on- one tournaments and shooting contests with prizes to awarded.