



## High School Course Descriptions • 2017-18

### English

#### **English 9**

Duration: Full-year

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

This course promotes English language arts through the study of literature. The class will read short stories, myths, essays, plays, poetry, and novels. Literary terms will be introduced and developed in connection with the readings. Major readings commonly include *To Kill A Mockingbird* (Lee), *Of Mice and Men* (Steinbeck), *Romeo and Juliet* (Shakespeare), *Master Harold and the Boys* (Fugard), as well as other texts. Different modes of writing will be required, reflecting various genres and text types. Speaking and listening will be stressed as oral components of the course. Skills to be developed include reading, writing, revision, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking and listening.

#### **English 10**

Duration: Full-year

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: English 9

Because the learning of skills is a process that occurs and develops over time, much of what was taught in English 9 is reviewed and reinforced in English 10. Students read a variety of literary texts and genres; write critical literary essays; engage in close analysis of texts; add to their working vocabulary; broaden their understanding of the use and effects of literary and stylistic devices; and reinforce their knowledge of the fundamentals of grammar and composition. English 10 focuses on the skills of writing: using the writing process to formulate and organize ideas; providing evidence in support of statements; constructing clear and effective sentences, paragraphs, and essays; and experimenting with forms and styles of expository and creative writing. Greater emphasis is placed on the continued development of critical thinking skills in the context of writing, speech, and reading comprehension. Some of the texts studied in English 10 may include the works of William Shakespeare, William Golding, Sophocles, and Khaled Hosseini, including the selected works of several poets.

#### **EAL**

Duration: Full-year

Credit: 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite: None

This support course provides students with academic language instruction on essay and expository structures, grammar and mechanics, and vocabulary acquisition both through direct instruction and inferring word meanings from context. The teacher also conferences with students regularly on their reading and writing in content classes (English, Social Sciences, and Sciences) to ensure academic language acquisition.

### **IB Language and Literature HL and SL**

Duration: Two Full Years – G11 and G12

Credit: 1.0 per year

Prerequisite: English 10 (or equivalent)

The IB Language and Literature course focuses on developing an understanding of the constructed nature of meanings generated by language and the web of relationships they share with the social world. Two parts of two-year course relate to the study of language (mostly in non-literary texts such as magazines, newspapers, advertisements, and social media) and two parts to the study of literature. The course develops skills of textual analysis, with special attention to context, audience, and purpose. A study of the formal structures of a text is combined with an exploration of the way the use of formal and stylistic elements and our understanding of their meaning is affected by reading practices that are culturally defined. Students read a wide variety of texts, literary and non-literary. Some of the texts studied might include the works of William Shakespeare, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Tennessee Williams, Toni Morrison, and Mohsin Hamid, among others.

## MATHEMATICS

### Grade 9 Advanced Geometry/Algebra 1

Duration: One Year .

Credit: 1.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1

This program is a rigorous course for highly motivated and capable students. It is assumed that, when appropriate, graphing display calculators -- **TI-Nspire CX (without the CAS)** and other forms of technology (for example *The Geometer's Sketchpad, Version 5*) will be used. The following **mathematical skills** will be emphasized throughout the year: making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; developing algebraic and geometric reasoning; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the analysis of others; modeling with mathematics; learning to discern which tools are appropriate to solve a problem; addressing the nature of precision, and being prepared to be systematic in one's mathematical communication. The **topics studied** are: introduction to geometry, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, Similarity Geometry Project, right triangles and trigonometry, linear Inequalities, systems of linear equations and inequalities, functions and, quadratic relationships.

### Grade 9 Geometry/Algebra 1

Duration: One Year .

Credit: 1.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra 1

This program moves at a gentler pace and is less rigorous than the Advanced (outlined above). As before, though, it is assumed that, when appropriate, graphing display calculators -- **TI-Nspire CX (without the CAS)** and other forms of technology (for example *The Geometer's Sketchpad, Version 5*) will be used. Once again, the following **mathematical skills** will be emphasized but at less depth: making sense of problems and persevering in solving them; developing algebraic and geometric reasoning; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the analysis of others; modeling with mathematics; learning to discern which tools are appropriate to solve a problem; addressing the nature of precision, and being prepared to be systematic in one's mathematical communication. The **topics studied** are: introduction to geometry, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, Geometry Project, transformations, similarity, circles, right triangles and trigonometry, lines, linear inequalities, systems of linear equations, functions and probability.

### Grade 10 Algebra 2 Trig HL

Duration: One Year .

Credit: 1.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Geometry Algebra 1 and Teacher Recommendation

This program is a rigorous and challenging course for highly motivated and capable students. As before, it is assumed that, when appropriate, graphing display calculators -- **TI-Nspire CX (without the CAS)** and other forms of technology (for example *The Geometer's Sketchpad, Version 5* and *Autograph*) will be used to enhance and explore concepts. Once again, the typical **mathematical skills** will be emphasized: making good sense of problems and persevering in solving them; developing sound algebraic and geometric reasoning; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the analysis of others; modeling with mathematics; learning to discern which tools are appropriate to solve a problem; addressing the nature of precision, and being prepared to be systematic in one's mathematical communication. The **topics studied** are: introduction to the course, review of quadratic equations & the introduction of complex numbers, polynomials, roots & radicals, introduction to statistics, Project, exponential & logarithmic functions, rational equations & functions, trigonometry, statistics, probability and vectors.

### **Grade 10 Algebra 2 Trig SL**

Duration: One Year.

Credit: 1.0 Credits

Prerequisite: Completion of Geometry Algebra 1

This program is a challenging course for capable students. As before, it is assumed that, when appropriate, graphing display calculators -- **TI-Nspire CX (without the CAS)** and other forms of technology (for example *The Geometer's Sketchpad, Version 5* and *Autograph*) will be used. Once again, the typical **mathematical skills** will be emphasized: making good sense of problems and persevering in solving them; developing sound algebraic and geometric reasoning; constructing viable arguments and critiquing the analysis of others; modeling with mathematics; learning to discern which tools are appropriate to solve a problem; addressing the nature of precision, and being prepared to be systematic in one's mathematical communication. The **topics studied** are a subset of those of HL (above) and it will be appreciated that the depth will not be as demanding: introduction to the course, quadratic equations, introduce imaginary/complex numbers, polynomials, roots and radicals, functions and transformations, introduction to statistics, exponential functions, logarithmic functions and trigonometry.

### **IB Math Studies SL1 and SL 2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Math 10 course

This course is designed for students with varied backgrounds and abilities in mathematics. It is designed to build confidence and encourage an appreciation of mathematics in students who do not anticipate the need for a great deal of

mathematics in their future studies. The course will start out with a review of topics covered in Algebra II/Trigonometry. Students taking this course should be already equipped with fundamental skills and a rudimentary knowledge of basic processes. In the second year of this course, students will complete their study of topics prescribed IB syllabus. In addition, students must complete a statistics based research project that involves the collection of data and then analysis of that data. The project should include diagrams and graphs and should not exceed 2,000 words.

### **IB Math SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Math 10 course

This course is designed for students with a strong background in mathematics, and an interest in pursuing a wide range of mathematical topics, including calculus, while still in high school. It is expected that many of the students taking Mathematics SL will continue on to study further math at the university level. The focus the first year of the course will be an in depth analysis of various mathematical relationships, including limits, which will serve to prepare students for an in depth study of calculus in the second year of the course. In addition to the regular coursework and investigations, students will complete an Exploration during the course of the two years as part of the internal assessment component required by the IB. In the second year, however, the focus is primarily on Calculus for the 1st semester, with the 3rd quarter dedicated to reviewing the material covered over the full two years of the course, and the 4th quarter focused on preparation for the IB Exam in May. Students will have access to Autograph software and the TI-Nspire CX (without the CAS) calculator.

### **IB Math HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Successful completion of a Math 10 Advanced course

This is a very fast-paced, demanding and comprehensive course, designed only for students with high interest/ability, and is geared toward students who plan to pursue further studies in mathematics. The syllabus includes a variety of advanced mathematical topics, including: algebra, complex numbers, 3-D vectors; transformational geometry; trigonometry; calculus, statistics and probability. Students will also complete an IB Exploration with communication, personal engagement, reflection, mathematical presentation and mathematical content components worth 20% of the final grade. The special option for the immediate future will be Sets, Relations and Groups.

## SCIENCE

### **Biology**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: None

The main focus of this course will be on topics that will prepare students for IB Biology. While building laboratory skills we will also explore the following topics: Introduction to Biology, Chemistry of Life, Cell Structure and Function; Photosynthesis and Respiration; DNA, Cell Growth and Division; Introduction to Genetics & Human Heredity; Genetic Engineering; Introduction to Plants & Plant Structure and Function; Viruses /Prokaryotes and Immunity; Animal Systems and Ecology. There is a strong emphasis on inquiry based practical work and development of scientific communication.

### **Physics**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A strong math background. Course suggested for grade 10 students who have completed a Math 9 class

In this introductory physics course we will extend our understanding of the physical world through the study of basic mechanics, waves, electromagnetism. We will use our natural curiosity, minds, logic, and mathematics to solve problems. Technology and analysis are strongly integrated into this course, as students will collect data using computers and video for analysis. Emphasis will be on experimentation and problem solving skills in the classroom and in the laboratory. Students will be expected to apply their knowledge across scientific disciplines and to real world unpredictable situations. This course is a prerequisite for all future physics courses in grades 11 & 12. Students interested in IB Physics must take this course in Grade 9 or 10.

### **Chemistry**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: None

This is a year long course that builds on the fundamentals of chemistry and gives students the skills and concepts needed for further studies in chemistry. Topics studied include properties of matter, atomic structure, periodic trends, chemical bonding and formulas, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. Students will develop an understanding of scientific skills essential for further study in IB Chemistry and/or IB Biology.



## **IB Environmental Systems and Societies SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Biology course

This is a transdisciplinary course that satisfies the IB requirements in both Group 3 and Group 4. The aim of the course is to provide students with a perspective of the interrelationships between the environment and societies. Students will be able to construct personal, informed responses to a wide range of environmental issues. Students will conduct experimental investigations as well as other longer term projects, surveys and value-based investigations. The major topics are: The ecosystem, conservation and biodiversity, water systems, soil systems, atmospheric systems, climate change, energy production, and resource use. Environmental value systems are addressed throughout the course.

## **IB Physics SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Physics course

This course is for students with an interest in science who want to systematically study the rules of their physical world. Content is from the IB Standard Level Syllabus which includes the standard topics of most introductory physics courses with brief chances to explore a few non-standard ideas (such as relativity, quantum mechanics, and astrophysics) in more detail. Students completing the second half of this sequence will be prepared to sit the IB Physics SL exam at the end of grade 12 or continue basic studies in science upon entering university.

## **IB Biology SL1 and SL 2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Biology course

The focus of this course will be to provide students with an understanding of the living world. Students will cover the 6 core IB biology topics (Cell Biology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Ecology, Evolution and Biodiversity and Human Physiology). We will also cover one Option - Human Physiology. Class activities will also cover the required IB Internal Assessment criteria for laboratory work.

## **IB Chemistry SL1 and SL 2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Chemistry course



This course taught over two years is designed to prepare students for a first year college level general chemistry course.

It is a lab-based course intended for those students interested in taking Chemistry at university. It is lab-oriented and covers the following in depth: stoichiometric relationships, atomic structure, periodicity, chemical bonding, nuclear chemistry, states of matter, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, chemical equilibrium and organic chemistry. In addition to the core material students must also study one of the following Option Topics: Material Chemistry, Biochemistry, Energetics and Medicinal Chemistry. Students taking this course are required to spend at least one hour every day on homework and must produce a meticulously written lab report about every other week.

### **IB Physics HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Physics course

This course is for serious students with strong interest and ability in science and mathematics. The course would be suitable for students who might want to pursue further studies or careers in science, medicine, or engineering. Content is from the IB Higher Level Syllabus which includes the standard topics of most introductory or first year university physics courses with chances to explore a few non-standard topics (such as relativity, quantum mechanics, and astrophysics) in considerable detail. Students completing the second half of this sequence will be well prepared to sit the IB Physics HL exam at the end of grade 12. Internal assessment is the same for HL and SL.

### **IB Biology HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: A HS Biology course

This is a rigorous, college preparatory course. Students will develop a deeper understanding of biological systems beyond the IB SL level. A greater number of topics will also be covered in addition to the IB SL Biology. The additional topics are: Nucleic Acids, Metabolism, Plant Biology, Genetics and Evolution and Animal Physiology. One option - Human Physiology will be covered beyond the IB SL level as well. Class activities will also cover the required IB Internal Assessment criteria for laboratory work.

### **IB Chemistry HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course





Prerequisite: A HS Chemistry course

This course taught over two years is designed to be the equivalent of the first year college level general chemistry course. It is a very challenging course intended for those students interested in studying engineering or medicine at university. The pace is fast and the expectations are high. It is lab-oriented and covers the following in depth: atomic structure, chemical bonding, nuclear chemistry, states of matter, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, chemical equilibrium and organic chemistry. In addition to the core material students must also study one of the following Option Topics: Material Chemistry, Biochemistry, Energetics and Medicinal Chemistry. Students taking this course are required to spend at least one hour every day on homework and must produce a meticulously written lab report about every other week. Internal assessment is the same for HL and SL.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **Human Geography 9**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: None

This required Grade 9 course introduces students to the study of geography, stressing human interaction with the environment and economic geography. Students investigate geography following a topical approach that incorporates case studies from around the world, but specifically focusing on Less Economically Developed Countries in Africa and Asia. Students will be introduced to the use of databases and MLA as a system of citation. Interviews in some assignments will also be encouraged. Students will encounter opportunities to develop research, writing and oral presentation skills. A high degree of student analysis is expected. Hands-on teaching and learning techniques will be emphasized during this course.

### **Modern World History 10**

Duration: Full-year

Credit: 1.0 Credit

Prerequisite: Geography 9 or equivalent

This course, required of all Grade 10 students at AISD, introduces students to major themes and developments in the political, social, and diplomatic history of the modern world from the 18th century to the 20th century. Although the course progresses in a more or less chronological manner, the subject matter is organized into 6-7 thematic units and case studies that encourage historical analysis of contrasting cultures and world regions. Some of the themes students are likely to explore include the Atlantic or Liberal Revolutions (France, USA, and Latin America 1780s - 1820s), Global Conflict in the 20th Century (WW 1, WW 2, the Cold War), and Asian Nationalism Since 1945 (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Vietnam).

### **IB Economics SL and HL**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per year

Prerequisite: Modern World History and Math

This course examines how societies and the world use scarce resources and how those resources can be allocated to satisfy peoples' wants. Students will obtain a thorough understanding of the principles in Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, International Economics and Development Economics. This course's inclusion of International Economics and Development Economics sets it apart from typical Principles of Economics courses that focus exclusively on a single country's economic system. Higher Level extension topics include a detailed study of the

theory of the firm as well as in-depth coverage of additional macroeconomic and international trade theories.

### **IB History HL1 and HL2: 20th Century World History and The History of the Americas**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Modern World History, preferably with a B or higher

IB History HL, History of the Americas, is a two-year “introduction in depth” to some of the major political and social events that have shaped the United States, Canada and countries in Latin America in the 20th century. The course encourages students to gain sound historical knowledge of a few topics/case studies in the History of the Americas rather than a broad overview of the region’s past. In the first half of the course, students investigate global topics such as the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the development of Apartheid in South Africa and a comparative study of 20th century conflicts. Students will then study, in depth, the role of the Americas in WWII. In the latter part of the course, students approach the study of 20th century events through thematic units that demand a comparative and trans-regional approach to historical investigation. In the second year, students focus on the Cold War and communism in the postwar world. Topics include the Cold War in Vietnam, Korea, Cuba, Germany, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Further evaluation is given to the topic of “Communism in Crisis” including China under Deng Xiaoping, the Soviet Union under Brezhnev and Gorbachev and its collapse, fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Velvet Revolution. The HL course expectation is for an extended study in the role nations of the Americas took in WWII, the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movements of the 20th century.

### **IB History SL1 and SL2: 20th Century World History**

Duration: One year per course.

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Modern World History, preferably with a B or higher

IB History SL, 20th Century History, is a two-year “introduction in depth” to some of the major political and social events that have shaped the 20th century. The course encourages students to gain sound historical knowledge of a few topics/case studies in history rather than a broad overview of the region’s past. In the first half of the course, students investigate global topics such as the Civil Rights Movement in the United States and the development of Apartheid in South Africa. In the latter part of the course, students approach the study of 20th century events through thematic units that demand a comparative and trans-regional approach to historical investigation. In the second year, students focus on the Cold War and communism in the postwar world. Topics include the Cold War in Vietnam, Korea, Cuba, Germany, Eastern Europe, and Latin America. Further evaluation is given to the topic of



“Communism in Crisis” including China under Deng Xiaoping, the Soviet Union under Brezhnev and Gorbachev and its collapse, fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Velvet Revolution.

## **IB Psychology SL and HL**

Duration: 2 year

Credit: 1.0 credit per year

Prerequisite: Modern World History

Psychology is the systematic study of behavior and mental processes. Psychology has its roots in both the natural and social sciences, leading to a variety of research designs and applications, and providing a unique approach to understanding modern society. IB psychology examines the interaction of biological, cognitive and sociocultural influences on human behavior, thereby adopting an integrative approach. Understanding how psychological knowledge is generated, developed and applied enables students to achieve a greater understanding of themselves and appreciate the diversity of human behavior. The ethical concerns raised by the methodology and application of psychological research are key considerations in IB psychology.

## **MODERN LANGUAGES**

### **French I**

Duration: 1 year  
Credit: 1.0 credit  
Prerequisite: None

French 1 is a flexible course designed to meet the needs of several types of students, those entering high school with no prior exposure to French as well as those students who began French in middle school but need extra time to review the basic knowledge and skills in French before proceeding to French 2. This partial immersion class develops all four language skills - listening, speaking, reading, and writing - and challenges the students to become competent communicators on a variety of themes such as free time, restaurants and food, clothes and shopping, weather, holidays, travel using basic vocabulary and verbs in the present, near future and past tenses.

### **French II**

Duration: 1 year  
Credit: 1.0 credit  
Prerequisite: French I

The four skills are strengthened (especially listening and speaking), with an added emphasis on writing skills. Communicative skills are used to reinforce grammar and culture. Students communicate in authentic situations on a basic level using simple past, present and future tenses. Cultural practices and contributions to culture will be studied.

### **French III**

Duration: 1 year  
Credit: 1.0 credit  
Prerequisite: French II or departmental recommendation

Basic writing and reading skills are further developed through original texts and compositions. Speaking/listening skills and vocabulary development are improved through discussions, presentations, dialogues and articles. Students study basic literature through short stories and poems. They also study and use compound verb tenses and are introduced to the subjunctive mood.

### **IB French B SL1 and SL 2**

Duration: 1 year  
Credit: 1.0 credit  
Prerequisite: French III or departmental recommendation



This course offers and comprehensive study of the French language. Students must exhibit a willingness to accept the challenge of the IB program and an interest in both the target language and culture. Speaking/listening skills are advanced through discussions, presentations and debates. A wide range of authentic texts will be studied in view of their communicative purpose and related cultural context. Students write multiple types of texts and focus on message, context and language. Students select and examine cultural topic areas of interest that they investigate, compare and reflect upon in order to foster open-mindedness and empathy to other people's perspectives.

### **IB French B HL1 and HL2**

Duration: 2 year2

Credit: 1.0 credit per year

Prerequisite: French III with a B or higher

This course offers and comprehensive study of the French language. Students must exhibit a willingness to accept the challenge of the IB program and an interest in both the target language and culture. Speaking/listening skills are advanced through discussions, presentations and debates. A wide range of authentic texts including literature and literary movements will be studied in view of their communicative purpose and related cultural context. Students write multiple types of texts and focus on message, context and language. Advanced grammar will be reviewed and students are expected to apply a variety of grammar in authentic contexts. Students select and examine cultural topic areas of interest that they investigate, compare and reflect upon in order to foster open-mindedness and empathy to other people's perspectives.

### **Spanish I**

Duration: 1 year

Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: None

This is a beginner's course in which the four skills of communication—listening, speaking, reading and writing are introduced. Students will learn basic grammar and vocabulary related to themselves and their lives. Cultural aspects of the Spanish-speaking world will be introduced.

### **Spanish II**

Duration: 1 year

Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

The four skills are strengthened (especially listening and speaking), with an added emphasis on writing skills. Communicative skills are used to reinforce grammar and culture. Students communicate in authentic situations on a basic level using simple

past, present and future tenses. Cultural practices and contributions to culture will be studied.

### **Spanish III**

Duration: 1 year

Credit: 1.0 credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II

Basic writing and reading skills are further developed through original texts and compositions. Speaking/listening skills and vocabulary development are improved through discussions, presentations, dialogues and articles. Students study basic literature through short stories and poems. They also study and use compound verb tenses and are introduced to the subjunctive mood.

### **IB Spanish Ab Initio SL1 and SL 2**

Duration: 1 year per course

Credit: 1.0 credit per year

Prerequisite: No more than one year of Spanish experience as an acquisitional language

The Spanish IB ab initio course is a 2-year intensive introduction to Spanish for students who have had little or no previous experience. It is a rigorous program that seeks to develop the four language skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening. The course is divided into eight topics: the individual, education, transportation and communication, shopping, food and beverages, leisure, the environment, and emergencies. Within these contexts students will also study an appropriate range of grammatical structures and vocabulary. The grammar concepts presented are equivalent to those taught in Spanish 1 through Spanish 3.

### **IB Spanish B SL1 and SL2**

Duration: 1 year per course

Credit: 1.0 credit per course

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course offers a comprehensive study of the Spanish language. Students must exhibit a willingness to accept the challenge of the IB program and an interest in both the target language and culture. Speaking/listening skills are advanced through discussions, presentations and debates. A wide range of authentic texts will be studied in view of their communicative purpose and related cultural context. Students write multiple types of texts and focus on message, context and language. Students select and examine cultural topic areas of interest that they investigate, compare and reflect upon in order to foster open-mindedness and empathy to other people's perspectives.



## **IB Spanish B HL1 and HL2**

Duration: 1 year per course

Credit: 1.0 credit per course

Prerequisite: Spanish III with a B or higher

This course offers a comprehensive study of the Spanish language. Students must exhibit a willingness to accept the challenge of the IB program and an interest in both the target language and culture. Speaking/listening skills are advanced through discussions, presentations and debates. A wide range of authentic texts including literature and literary movements will be studied in view of their communicative purpose and related cultural context. Students write multiple types of texts and focus on message, context and language. Advanced grammar will be reviewed and students are expected to apply a variety of grammar in authentic contexts. Students select and examine cultural topic areas of interest that they investigate, compare and reflect upon in order to foster open-mindedness and empathy to other people's perspectives.

## **IB Self Taught Language A1 SL1 and SL2 (languages other than English)**

Duration: 1 year per course

Credit: 1.0 credit per course

Prerequisite: Strong reading, writing and speaking skills in the target language. This course is for native speakers of the target language. Strong self discipline is needed

This is a literature course intended to allow students to meet the IB A1 requirement in their mother tongue. Self-taught candidates are expected to follow the same requirements as the English SL above except there are some differences in the choice of works. Please refer to the English A1 course description. Self-taught candidates will have a block of time in their schedule. If more than one student is studying in the same language they will be placed into the same class. Students will receive initial consultation from a school appointed supervisor and are expected to have a tutor. Tutors are independently employed (not school employees) and are expected to be knowledgeable about the IB website, and include the use of the Online Curriculum Center (OCC).



## **FINE ARTS**

### **Art I**

Duration: Semester course  
Credit: 0.5 credit per course  
Prerequisite: none

Introduction to Art is an elective course that exposes students to the fundamentals of art. Students will learn how to use different media and gain confidence in creating two and three-dimensional artworks. The course will focus on skill building with two and three dimensional artwork in addition to lens based media, while encouraging a lifetime appreciation of art through critical evaluation and the study of Art History. Students will learn to apply the elements and principles of art and design in a variety of projects.

### **Art II**

Duration: Semester course  
Credit: 0.5 credit per course  
Prerequisite: none

Reviewing and building on what was covered in ArtI, Art II, is an elective course that continues to expose students to the fundamentals of art. Students will learn how to use different media and gain confidence in creating two and three-dimensional artworks in addition to creating artwork with lens based media. The course will focus on skill building while encouraging a lifetime appreciation of art through critical evaluation and the study of Art History. Students will learn to apply the elements and principles of art and design in a variety of projects. This course will also prepare students for IB Visual Arts.

### **World Art**

Duration: Semester course  
Credit: 0.5 credit per course  
Prerequisite: none

This course is a practical-art-making class that explores a survey of selected Asian, North American, African and Middle-Eastern art and architecture. The goal of this course is to provide you with an understanding for looking at, understanding, and appreciating the art and architecture of various cultures throughout the world. We will focus on making artworks related to the above cultures. To accomplish this we'll look at the art of the various cultures in a context of religious, social, and economic forces. Each unit will culminate in a practical independent artistic project in which you are able to apply what you learn of the cultures you investigate with the help of the teacher and one another to create artwork. This class is collaborative

in nature and learning from what we already know as a diverse community is crucial.

### **IB Visual Arts SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course

Credit: One credit per year

Prerequisite: Art I or Art II

The visual arts higher level and standard level courses are designed for students that have had at least a year of visual arts training and are interested in an in-depth study of the visual arts and/or plan on studying a form of art (i.e. architecture, graphic design, fine arts, fashion design) at the university level. Over the course of the two-year time period, the purpose/focus of the Visual Arts course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop the power to express themselves in terms of their identity and their relationship to the world around them. The goals of the course are for the students to explore: the aesthetic qualities of visual arts, the relationship between form and meaning, the social and cultural functions of visual arts, and the socio-cultural and historical contexts of multiple cultures. Students will have the choice working from three different media to work from and must choose two of them. The media are two dimensional, three dimensional and lens-based media/digital. Students in IB Visual Art SL are required to work in their journals a minimum of two hours per week outside of class. Portions of the journal are submitted for external assessment to the IB. At the end of year two SL students are required to curate an exhibition containing 4-7 cohesive and resolved works of their art.

### **IB Visual Arts HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course

Credit: One credit per year

Prerequisite: Art I or Art II

The visual arts higher level course is designed for students that have had at least a year of visual arts training and are interested in an in-depth study of the visual arts and/or plan on studying a form of art (i.e. architecture, graphic design, fine arts, fashion design) at the university level. Over the course of the two-year time period, the purpose/focus of the Visual Arts course is to provide an opportunity for students to develop the power to express themselves in terms of their identity and their relationship to the world around them. The goals of the course are for the students to explore: the aesthetic qualities of visual arts, the relationship between form and meaning, the social and cultural functions of visual arts, and the socio-cultural and historical contexts of multiple cultures. Students will have the choice working from three different media to work from and must choose two of them. These media vary and are two dimensional, three dimensional and lens-based media/digital. In addition to the SL requirements, students in IB Visual Art HL are required to work on their journal an extra hour outside of class time each week.



Portions of the journal are submitted for external assessment to the IB. At the end of year two HL students are required to curate an exhibition containing 8-11 cohesive and resolved works of their art.

## **Chorale**

Duration: Full Year

Credit: One credit

Prerequisite: None

Chorale is for students who would like to learn to sing or who would like to improve their singing skills. Emphasis is placed on tone production, posture, music literacy, breath support, vowel placement, introductory ear training and music theory. Students have the opportunity to perform many times throughout the year in formal and informal settings. Select, qualified students are given the opportunity to participate in SAISA Music Festival or Festival of Choirs. Members of the Chorale may also elect to audition for the International Honor Choir when it is hosted in Asia.

## **Design Technology: Creating With Materials**

Duration: One semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: none

This course will provide opportunities for students to create functional products while using various materials. Students will be encouraged to use the 'design cycle' and document their learning throughout the semester. With guidance, students will use various woodworking, 3D printing, and sewing machines. Students will also have the opportunity to design and create a product of their choice.

## **Digital Media: Storytelling**

Duration: One semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: none

In this course, students will apply techniques to interpret media and convey stories. Students will learn about various photography and video techniques, interviewing subjects, photo manipulation, stop-motion animation, as well as effective storytelling through videography. Various programs will be used such as i-movie, photoshop, and GarageBand to enhance storytelling.

## **Beginner Guitar**

Duration: One semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: none

This course is designed for students with little or no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar at a beginning level and will learn many different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note, chord symbol and tablature reading, aural skills, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, finger picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences.

### **Instrumental Music**

Duration: Full Year  
Credit: 1.0 credit  
Prerequisite: none

Instrumental Music is a one year course for students with very limited or no prior playing experience on a woodwind, brass, or concert percussion instrument. No prior music skills are required. The course will include the selection of an appropriate instrument, instrument assembly and playing posture, tone production and embouchure, music-reading skills, and introductory music theory.

### **Symphonic Band**

Duration: Full Year  
Credit: 1.0 Credit  
Prerequisite: One or more years of concert band experience.

Symphonic Band is for students with more advanced skills and experience in playing a woodwind, brass or concert percussion instrument. The Symphonic Band performs many times throughout the school year in both formal and informal settings. Many musical styles from early to twentieth century are practiced and performed. Emphasis is placed on musical and technical development, as well as continued instruction in the elements of music.

### **IB Music SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course  
Credit: 1.0 Credit per course  
Prerequisite: Previous musical experience required

IB Music students will develop an awareness of appropriate musical language and terminology to describe and reflect their critical understanding of music history and music from around the world as well as musical analysis. They will also be required to demonstrate their skills in solo (15 minute performance) or ensemble performances (SL only) or musical composition (3 works created 3-6 minutes each). In the second year of the course IB Music students will continue to develop analytical thinking while listening to musical examples from a variety of genres and



cultures. Students will reflect their knowledge in a written paper called Musical Links Investigation, and will continue to perform and compose. All compositions must be printed and a performance of each must be recorded.

### **IB Music HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Previous musical experience required

IB Music students will develop an awareness of appropriate musical language and terminology to describe and reflect their critical understanding of music history as well as musical analysis. They will also be required to demonstrate their skills in solo performances and musical composition. Students in Music HL have to accumulate 20 minutes of solo repertoire for performance on an instrument or voice or electronic music and compose three musical works (3-6 minutes each) in duration.. In the second year of the course IB Music students will continue to develop analytical thinking while listening to musical examples from a variety of genres and cultures. Students will reflect their knowledge in a written paper called Musical Links Investigation, and will continue to perform and compose. All compositions must be printed and a performance of each must be recorded.

### **Theatre Arts I**

Duration: One Semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed as a preparatory class for the IB theatre course. Students will explore devising and performing theatre. The students will work on a collaborative project and develop script writing skills. They students are expected to do at least one performance within the duration of the semester. In addition students will do some research into a theatre company and on theatre practices. Students will work cooperatively and imaginatively in class activities and will be required to attend some out-of-class rehearsals and performances.

### **Theatre Arts II**

Duration: One Semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed as a preparatory class for the IB theatre course. Students will explore devising and performing theatre. The students will work on a collaborative project and develop script writing skills. They students are expected to do at least one performance within the duration of the semester. In addition students will do some research into a theatre company and on theatre practices. Students will work cooperatively and imaginatively in class activities and will be



required to attend some out-of-class rehearsals and performances.

### **IB Theatre Arts SL1 and SL2**

Duration: One year per course

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Theater Arts II

The focus and purpose of IB Theatre arts will be to provide students an opportunity to explore Theatre in the Making, Theatre in the World and Theatre in Performance. In addition to on-going, in-class assignments, students are expected to maintain a journal, attend and participate in performances, attend the IB TAPS Workshop, as well as attend off-campus performances.

Students will complete the following assessments: a research investigation presentation, A Collaborative Theatre Performance and Production Presentation, A Director's Notebook and for Higher level a Solo Performance. Throughout the first year students study a variety of world traditions (both text and non-text based), theatre practices, playwrights, as well as the technical aspects involved in creating theatre. A strong component of the program is "devising" theatre, honing the students' skills in both creative and academic aspects of theatre as an art form.

It is important for students to understand the time requirements for IB Theatre and students need to schedule time to complete all IB Theatre requirements, which include participation in 2-3 performances over 2 years.

### **IB Theatre Arts HL1 and HL2**

Duration: One year per course

Credit: 1.0 Credit per course

Prerequisite: Completion of Theater Arts II with a grade of B or higher

Students in the higher level IB Theatre arts course will complete all of the assessments described in the standard level course. In addition, they need to meet a higher word count for several assessments.

### **Yearbook**

Duration: Full Year

Credit: One credit

Prerequisite: None

Yearbook is a year long photojournalism course whose mission is it to produce the very best book for the main audience: the middle and high school students who attend AISD.

The Yearbook is:

1. An educational book which provides the staff an opportunity to develop skills in



writing, design, photography, technology, and teamwork

2. A picture book that shows our students acting and reacting
3. A history book that documents the school year in words and photos
4. A reference book that identifies each member of our primary and secondary audiences
5. A public relations book that educates non-community members about our school
6. A fun book that offers an exciting event for our audience when they receive the book and the staff as they produce it.

Staff must realize that unlike other courses, only one of purposes focuses on the student. The others are essentially service goals. The Tiger Tales Staff primarily serves the school and its traditions while adhering to the highest standards of the journalistic endeavor.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **HS PE for grades 9 and 10**

Duration: Full Year

Credit: One credit per year

Prerequisite: None

The Students will learn and practice the basic skills, techniques, strategies, and rules needed to effectively participate in racquet, team, field and court sports, personalized fitness, and weight training. The students will engage in learning that promotes lifelong fitness and the importance of remaining physically active. The Students will learn and practice the advanced skills, techniques, strategies, and rules needed to effectively participate in a variety of activities. The indoor activities in this course could include: Swimming, badminton, pickle ball, team handball, volleyball, table tennis, basketball, yoga, pilates, strength & conditioning training. The outdoor activities could include: flag football, soccer, ultimate frisbee, softball, lacrosse, and golf. Students will become knowledgeable in team and individual activities that they will be able to do for a lifetime.

### **MULTISPORT**

Duration: One semester

Credit: 0.5 credit

Prerequisite: Previous experience in club or organized sport

Course Synopsis: This course is open to grades 9-12 students has been developed to offer elite athletes a multisport training program. The experience will develop sport specific skills, fitness, training knowledge, nutrition and personal portfolio creation. School sports and community sports program participation is strongly recommended to applicants.

Rationale: This course is offered to meet the needs of high achieving student athletes. Students with the desire and skills required to perform at high levels of competition in more than one sport. The Multi Sport course will help students develop skills, fitness, knowledge and psychology of sport for elite performance. The focus of the academy is to develop well-rounded athletes capable of multisport performance before specializing in a single sport.

## **ELECTIVES**



## **Study Skills**

Duration: Semester

Credit: 0.5 Credits/Semester

Prerequisites: Prior approval from SST

Study Skills, led by a learning support teacher, serves students with diverse learning needs. The course fosters both soft skills and academic skills ranging from executive functioning, self-advocacy and self-reflection to note-taking skills, writing support and oral communication. a variety of academic strategies to use across content areas. This class is recommended for students requiring direct support with their regular academic program.

## **IB Theory of Knowledge 1 and 2**

Duration: One year (Last semester of junior year and first semester of senior year)

Credit: 0.5 Credits/Semester

Prerequisites: None

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) course is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate. It challenges students and their teachers to reflect critically on different ways of knowing and areas of knowledge. It encourages students to become aware of themselves as active thinkers and creative knowers, to realize the impact of technological change on society and the environment, and to recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected world.

## **Introduction to Philosophy**

Duration: One Semester

Credit: 0.5 Credit

Prerequisites: None

Philosophy is a semester elective course designed to introduce high school students to the questions, thoughts, and concepts of philosophy. It takes a chronological approach that offers insight into the development of thought regarding the nature of being. The class will survey many philosophers, focusing on a few whose ideas have had greater impact on society. Students will read, discuss, research, write, and present topics as elements of their learning and assessment. Active oral participation will be important as we explore and challenge these often complex concepts and apply critical thinking skills. Strong engagement in the class will strengthen abstract, creative, and critical thinking skills.

## **Computer Systems and Technology**



Duration: One Semester  
Credit: 0.5 Credit  
Prerequisites: None

This course will cover the basics of computer technology in today's world. Topics include: information processing, computer functions, information systems, computer systems and applications, data communication, database management and the internet. Students will apply their knowledge to everyday uses of the computer in the business world and their own lives.

In addition this course will provide a detailed look at college prep. Specifically, how high school students can ready themselves for advanced computer science study at the post-secondary level.

Students will explore the following concepts:

1. An introduction to concepts and applications of the personal computer.
2. An in-depth look at why computer science is important to learn at the secondary levels.
3. Applies existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes.
4. Coding, and Programming
5. Introduction to Computer Engineering
6. Web Development

### **Technology Exploration (Online)**

Duration: One Semester  
Credit: 0.5 Credit  
Prerequisites: None

Formal investigation of a topic of interest related to technology outside the structure of our school's programs, with the oversight from a highly qualified mentor teacher. It offers a valuable, important experience for a high school student in an independent study class format. Students will explore a self-chosen topic which they are passionate about, while learning invaluable independent study skills that they will carry forward into other courses in addition to college.