WILLISTON
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL

COURSE OF STUDIES 2026-27

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ACADEMICS AT WILLISTON

The academic program at the Williston Northampton School is designed to create a rigorous academic experience that inspires students to develop a wide range of intellectual interests and pursuits. Our core diploma requirements are enhanced by a rich and diverse elective program, enabling students with varied interests and strengths to find challenge and inspiration in their academic and artistic work.

The crucial relationship between dedicated and talented teachers and eager and interested students lies at the heart of our academic program. This relationship informs what happens in our classes, which are designed to emphasize collaboration and discussion. In the classroom, ideas are scrutinized, and opinions are shared in an atmosphere that promotes an open exchange among students and faculty and emphasizes the value and the beauty of thinking and creating. Our most immediate goal is to prepare our students well for their college careers, but we recognize that our broader and more important responsibility is to establish in our students an appreciation for the joys and complexities of learning that we hope will continue throughout their adult lives.

— Kimberly Polin, Academic Dean

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To receive a diploma, a student must complete 57 academic credits in courses offered at the ninth through twelfth grade level. A yearlong course receives three credits, and a trimester course receives one credit.
The 57 credits must include:

ENGLISH: 12 CREDITS
Students must be enrolled in an English course every trimester.

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE: 9 CREDITS
This must include Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II; most students go beyond these requirements.

SCIENCE: 6 CREDITS
Three credits must be a yearlong physical science (Physics or Chemistry) and three credits must be a yearlong life science (Biology). Most students go beyond these requirements.

LANGUAGE: 6 SEQUENTIAL CREDITS
Each student must complete at least six credits in the same language during grades nine through twelve. Students for whom English is not a first language need not fulfill credits in this department. Many of the most competitive colleges and universities either recommend or require at least three years of continuous language study. As a result, the Williston Northampton College Advising Office strongly recommends that students study a language through at least the third level.

HISTORY & GLOBAL STUDIES: 8 CREDITS
Four-year students who enroll at the school for the ninth grade are required to complete the humanities program in the ninth grade. All students must complete the equivalent of World History (tenth grade) and U.S. History (eleventh grade). Two- and three-year students must also take two additional history credits; one of the two must be a religion or philosophy course (6700 level).

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS: 3 CREDITS
Two-, three-, and four-year students must complete three credits. Students are urged to select from offerings both in the studio/performance courses and in the visual arts courses.

Note: Students, parents, and faculty advisors are advised to check the distribution requirements of particular colleges in which students may be interested, since requirements and recommended course programs vary.

ADDITIONAL DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS:
To receive a diploma, students must also:

- Enroll and receive a passing grade in all courses taken senior year (including five courses in the third trimester, each worth one credit)
- Exhibit positive citizenship
- Continue regular participation in the afternoon programs
- Maintain attendance through graduation ceremonies

Diplomas are granted on the voted recommendation of the faculty prior to graduation and confirmed by a vote of the Board of Trustees. Waiver of any diploma requirement may be granted only by the Head of School or his designated representative, the Academic Dean, the College Advisor, and, when waiver of a specific course is involved, the Department Chair.

Seniors, including postgraduates, who are in jeopardy of failing a yearlong course may be asked to withdraw from the school. Williston does not offer part-time or hybrid enrollment; the school also will not grant diplomas to students who do not complete their senior year at the school.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

COURSE LOAD

Students in grades nine through twelve are expected to take five courses each trimester, and students should expect about 45 minutes of homework from each class every day. Occasionally, a student might be permitted to take six full-time courses for a trimester, but only after the recommendation of the advisor and approval by the Academic Dean. No student will be permitted to take seven or more credits per term.

ADVISING & PLACEMENT

When a student enters Williston at the Upper School level, an academic program is designed by the Academic Office after review of the student's records and any notes made by an admission officer during the admissions process.

For returning students in both the Middle and Upper Schools, the academic program is drawn up initially by the student and the student's faculty advisor and then reviewed by the department chairs and Academic Dean. Students are advised to talk with their teachers about course choices and placement, and parents are urged to participate early in the process through consultation with the faculty advisor in April and May.

In April, the academic departments and the Middle School faculty provide the Academic Dean with the names of those students who are recommended for placement in honors and/or Advanced Placement (AP) sections. While the school endeavors to respond to legitimate requests for specific courses and to keep students and parents informed about the status of requests for honors and AP courses, placement in these courses is ultimately made by the Academic Dean in consultation with the academic departments.

In the Upper School, there are sometimes more courses offered in a trimester than will actually be taught. For most courses, it is necessary to have a minimum enrollment.

AP COURSES (UPPER SCHOOL)

All AP courses follow College Board approved syllabi, which prepare students for the AP Exam in May. Students who enroll in an AP course should expect to take the AP Exam. If the student would like to opt out of an exam, they must complete a form with the Academic Office, which is signed by the advisor, AP Teacher, and College Advisor. College Board requires that families are billed for the cost of each AP Exam in fall. Following this, cancellation fees are applied for changes.

ADD/DROP (UPPER SCHOOL)

Except under the most unusual of circumstances, students may not enter a course later than seven class days after the beginning of the course. A change in course level, for example from honors to standard level, would be an exception to this policy and are permitted up until the final three weeks of the term so long as the process is followed (that includes signatures from the advisor who signs on behalf of the family, college advisors (seniors).

During roughly the first half of each term (see the Academic Office for precise dates), an Upper School student may use the established course change procedure to withdraw from a course. No record on transcript will exist if a class is dropped up to interim grades during the same term as the course started. No requests for withdrawal from a course will be considered or approved after this date.

GRADE REPORTS

The school year consists of three trimesters with formal numerical grades recorded at the end of each trimester. Interim comments and letter grade ranges for all students will also be recorded at the midpoint of a particular trimester. Interim and trimester grades and comments are made available electronically to parents, students, and advisors on Veracross. For students whose grades are below 70, comments from teachers will be posted at the end of each trimester.

ATTENDANCE (UPPER SCHOOL)

Students are expected to attend all of their classes, and to arrive to class on time. Three lates in a single trimester in any combination of commitments are equivalent to an unexcused absence, and a lateness of more than 15 minutes is typically considered as an unexcused absence. The School may convert students missing 20% (roughly eight meetings) of an individual course's meetings in a trimester to Pass/Fail status. Students missing more than 40% of any individual course in a trimester may be denied credit for their courses which can result in students needing to repeat the course in a future year. [Note that NCAA calculates grades of "Pass" as a 60% in the NCAA GPA calculation. (Refer to the student handbook "Consequences for Unexcused Absences").]

Additionally, students who receive more than three unexcused absences from any three academic classes will lose a point from the term grade for each subsequent absence. See the student handbook for full detail.

ACADEMIC STANDING

Promotion Standards

Upper School: For promotion from ninth to tenth grade, a student must have successfully completed 12 credits, including three credits in ninth grade English. For promotion from tenth to eleventh grade, a student must have successfully accumulated 27 credits, including three credits in tenth grade

English. For promotion from eleventh to twelfth grade, a student must have successfully accumulated 42 credits, including three credits in eleventh grade English.

In order to receive a Williston diploma, a student must complete 57 academic credits in courses offered at the ninth through twelfth grade level. This includes credits transferred from other schools. Williston accounts for these credits for graduation purposes but does not display other schools' data on its transcript.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

Upper School

For any student with a full load of five courses, a trimester grade report that includes two grades lower than 70 or one grade lower than 60 will result in the status of academic probation. A student who is carrying only four courses will be placed on academic probation with one grade below 70. The student and the student's parents will be notified of this status on the student's report card. Each student who earns academic probation will meet with their advisor and the Academic Dean or a member of the Center for Academic Success team to formulate an Academic Improvement Plan. The student's parents/guardians will also be included in the creation and implementation of the Academic Improvement Plan.

If a student earns academic probation more than one term in a period of three consecutive trimesters, the student's case will be formally reviewed by the Dean's committee. This review may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the school, removal of the student's offer to re-enroll in the subsequent year, a requirement to repeat a grade, or other actions as deemed appropriate by the Academic Dean and Head of School.

Middle School

Middle School Students' academic lives are carefully monitored by Middle School faculty and the Middle School Director. When concerns arise, contact is made between school and home. Any student whose trimester report includes two grades lower than 70 or one grade lower than a 60 will result in the status of academic probation. Each student who earns academic probation will meet with their teachers, advisor, and the Middle School Director to formulate an Academic Improvement Plan. The student's parents/guardians will also be included in the creation and implementation of the Academic Improvement Plan.

If a student earns academic probation more than one term in a period of three consecutive trimesters, the student's case will be formally reviewed. This review may result in the student being asked to withdraw from the school, removal of the student's offer to re-enroll in the subsequent year, a requirement to repeat a grade, or other actions as deemed appropriate by the Middle School Director and Head of School.

If the student remains on academic probation at the end of the next term, the student will be permitted to continue at Williston only by vote of the faculty.

Pass/Fail Grading Status

It is sometimes necessary that a student is moved to Pass/Fail grading status for a term due to an interruption in their ability to fully participate in the academic program or due to a high number of accumulated absences for any reason (see above). This status applies to all courses the student is enrolled in for one term. Once a student is converted to Pass/Fail status, they will remain on this status until the following term (students cannot reverse this decision during a term). Pass/Fail status allows teachers to significantly reduce and/or modify assignments and grading strategies so that the student is able to catch up, remain engaged, and earn credit in spite of the circumstances leading to the status change. Students on this status whose absences were elective in nature will receive a P or F on their transcript for the term in question. These grades are omitted from the Williston GPA calculation.

Summer Work

Summer reading and homework assignments are intended to keep students academically engaged during the summer months and to sharpen their skills as they begin a new academic year. Each department will issue the work required on the school's website. For math courses, summer work will be due during the orientation class meeting to assist in confirming placement. All other work will be due no earlier than the first full meeting of class. Summer work assignments themselves or quizzes solely on summer work should be scored as no more than two standard homework assignments.

Summer work may not take the place of courses required for graduation. Department Chairs may, however, approve a combination of summer work and assessment to be attempted for the purposes of acceleration to a higher level course that fulfills the same requirement. This typically entails having a course approved by the department and, upon successful completion, the student must demonstrate sufficient mastery using a placement test, final exam, etc. If a student completes summer work and ultimately does not meet the criteria set forth by the department for acceleration, they will still be required to meet the graduation requirement using a non-accelerated course at Williston which may result in the student retaking the material attempted during the summer.

ACADEMIC HONORS

The passing and college recommending grade at Williston is 60. Qualifications for Upper School honor roll are as follows:

- Honors: minimum grade point average of 87
- High Honors: minimum grade point average of 92

Honors designations are based on weighted trimester grade point averages. All honors and advanced placement courses receive a five-point bonus in the grade point average only.

Special Academic Honors

Cum Laude Society: The highest honor for a student is election to the Cum Laude Society, a national organization that recognizes high academic achievement in independent secondary schools. Students eligible for election are those seniors who, in the judgment of the faculty membership, combine academic excellence and achievement with honorable citizenship, sound character, and active participation in school life.

Academic dishonesty or social misconduct resulting in a tiered behavior response may render a student ineligible for election to the Cum Laude Society. Violations of Williston's Honor Code are incompatible with the Society's values of honorable citizenship and sound character.

PRIZES & AWARDS

The Upper School awards numerous endowed book prizes for academic achievement at the awards assembly. Also presented at this time are the major class prizes for outstanding achievement in all areas of school life.

Senior prizes are awarded at graduation. The top three are the Valedictory Prize for the first scholar, the Archibald V. Galbraith Prize, and the Sarah B. Whitaker Award (the White Blazer) for the most exemplary students in the graduating class.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a form of academic dishonesty. Using ideas, words, phrases, and/or designs generated by anyone or anything other than the student without giving credit is prohibited. This includes both copying and pasting and the use of materials that are generated or edited by technological means. All work turned in (be it written, oral, artistic, or programmed for a computer) is to be the student's own, except where otherwise credited. Students are sometimes encouraged to make references to other works, but these references (including individual ideas, words, phrases, and/or designs) must be credited properly. Internet or Artificial Intelligence (AI) material must be credited in the same way as any other reference source. The use of translation websites is prohibited by the Language Department and the English Department. Any outside help (tutors, sources, proofreading, typing, or copying of another's work) that a student has used in preparation for a written, oral, or artistic work should be noted as such before the assignment is turned in for a grade. Similarly, any questions that a student might have about whether their work might constitute plagiarism should be asked before a particular work is turned in to be graded. Upon submission of assignments, teachers often use a plagiarism and AI detection program. In reviewing submissions, a teacher may recognize that work submitted by a student does not appear to be the student's own; however, the teacher may not be able to confirm that the student engaged in academic dishonesty. Under such circumstances, the teacher may request the student to resubmit the work or an alternative assignment, and the student will be expected to comply.

Cheating

Cheating is not tolerated. Students who give or receive information or otherwise cheat on assignments will be disciplined and are subject to a tiered behavior response which, in serious or repeated cases, can ultimately lead to suspension or separation from the school.

Ethics of Computer Use

Any student who writes and/or uses a program for deceitful, malicious, or illegitimate intent or effect will be considered to be in violation of a major school rule. Please refer to the Acceptable Use Policy in the Student Handbook.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Williston's Center for Academic Success provides services to meet a broad range of support needs. Our Director of Academic Support works with students, parents, advisors, teachers, and the Academic Dean to coordinate appropriate levels of academic support for students who require or request it. A summary of services is provided below; for a full description and our support practices, please see our Student Handbook and website at https://www.williston.com/academics/center-for-academic-success/

Teacher Extra Help & Peer Tutoring

Available to all students

All students are encouraged to take advantage of extra help meetings with teachers both individually and in our subject-specific support centers (see below). These sessions may be scheduled during the school day or evening study hall. Students may also connect to other qualified students for assistance through Areté, Williston's peer-tutoring program.

The Writing Center

Available to all students

The Writing Center offers one-on-one instruction to students who wish to improve their writing skills. The center is staffed by members of the English department and a well-trained group of student tutors.

The Math Center & Science Center

Available to all students

These centers offer assistance by faculty and by student tutors selected by the faculty in all levels of our mathematics and science curricula.

Academic Strategy Documentation

Available to students with professionally documented learning needs

For students with neuropsychological or psychoeducational testing, the Director of Academic Support reviews and discusses the documentation with families and drafts a strategy document in collaboration with each student's family. This document is shared with teachers to help with the provision of appropriate educational strategies. The school also maintains a list of outside testing providers for families wishing to update or pursue new testing.

Academic Strategies Tutorial Class

Available to any student for a fee; Priority given to students with professionally documented learning needs

Students electing to join the Academic Strategies Tutorial Class will meet with an Academic Support staff member in two small-group classes per week to receive specific, targeted instruction to build academic skills. Topics of the class include homework planning, study strategies, note-taking, reading, and technology. Students in the Academic Strategies Tutorial will receive regular written feedback on their use of strategies and academic success, which will also be shared with parents and other teachers.

Students must be enrolled in the class by the Director of Academic Support prior to the start of each trimester. Students who are referred to the Academic Strategies Tutorial after the first two weeks of a given trimester may be enrolled at a pro-rated fee on a space-available basis.

Subject Area Tutors

Available to any student for a fee

Any student, with or without academic testing, who requires subject-area academic support may request a tutor. These tutors are paid for by the family but are vetted by Williston and can work with students on campus before or after school or during students' free periods. Parents may request a tutor by contacting the Director of Academic Support. Note that it may take several weeks to locate a tutor in certain subjects.

Laboratory for Academic Success Evening Study Hall

Available to any boarding student for a fee; Priority given to students with professionally documented learning needs

In this dedicated study space held during evening study hall, faculty supervise and support students. The low teacher-student ratio allows every student to get customized attention and assistance to help them succeed.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

The Williston Scholars program is a group of honors classes that allows students to pursue their individual academic and creative passions through a trimester of directed project work in a field of interest. Students in each department-specific Williston Scholars class engage as a cohort in self-chosen research projects under the close mentorship and instruction of a Williston faculty member. These classes meet in a class period like any other class and receive the same credit (1 credit per term). Students are guided through the steps of project development, research, implementation, and, ultimately, presentation. Students also connect with content experts both inside the school and out, drawing resources from the intellectual wealth of the Pioneer Valley's colleges and universities. Students with exemplary projects will be eligible for special recognition and departmental honors. Students are allowed to repeat Williston Scholars classes in the same subject at the discretion of the teacher. Honors Williston Scholars courses are offered in all academic departments. Students can enroll in different scholars courses or the same scholars course more than once so long as they have unique projects.

CONCENTRATIONS

Williston offers our most passionate and motivated students the opportunity to sharpen the focus of their high school coursework by fulfilling the requirements of an academic "concentration" in one of five areas of study. Concentrations require that students complete an Honors Williston Scholars project along with a variety of other curricular and co-curricular subject-specific activities as determined by the associated academic department(s). Students who successfully meet the departmental criteria will have the concentration listed on their Williston transcript. Williston currently offers the following five concentrations:

- Visual Arts
- Performing Arts
- Humanities (offered jointly by the History & Global Studies and English Departments)
- Language
- STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics; offered jointly by the Mathematics & CS and Science Departments)

Please visit https://www.williston.com/concentrations to learn more about the requirements for each concentration and steps for applying for the designation. For questions, please reach out to the department chair for the corresponding concentration.

ENGLISH

In her essay "Why I Write," Joan Didion explained: "When I talk about pictures in my mind, I am talking, quite specifically, about images that shimmer around the edges." This level of appreciation for language, both what's explicit and what's shimmering around the edges, is vital to English classes at Williston, where we ask students to pay close attention to the texts they read and to care deeply about the writing they craft. In our seminar-style discussions, students also learn how to question thoughtfully and to speak purposefully. Analytical and imaginative skills grow from the confluence of these practices in reading, writing, and speaking, and, as a result, students ultimately connect more deeply with themselves and those around them.

Williston's English faculty help students internalize the skills needed to be strong observers and communicators, and our classrooms serve as rich, yet comfortable arenas for risk-taking. The sophistication students gain from the challenges posed by their classmates and English teachers, though, is enhanced by the luxury we feel in being able to tap into the resources of the Five Colleges. Whether it is attending a poetry reading at Smith College or viewing a Shakespeare & Company production of Hamlet at the University of Massachusetts, our students appreciate the opportunity to supplement their work in the classroom with the vibrant cultural and academic richness that makes our educational community distinct.

In each of our English courses, students read a balance of genres, examining the way form affects meaning, and they encounter a wide range of subject matter. Students are offered appropriate analytical challenges at each grade level, as well as developmentally relevant themes and essential questions that center on the issue of what it means to be a human being in a complex world. Analytical writing assignments will often ask students to understand a text as a whole, while writing deeply about a small, ambiguous moment; this depth of analytical examination helps students gain the solid foundation needed for lengthy writing assignments in college. As students move to upper-level English courses, they also gain greater facility with incorporating outside sources into their own analysis, and this reading of literary criticism inevitably informs their writing of the same in any essays that follow.

Chosen specifically to align with larger themes each grade level will discuss throughout the year, the books, like all good literature, open a window into perspectives and experiences with which we may not be immediately familiar. The characters and authors take us on a journey, and, ideally, we return at the end changed, more awake and aware, better for having traveled. When reading thought-provoking literature, some books may contain images, themes, characters, and events that may evoke strong personal responses, and remind us of troubling, real-world issues and the emotions that come with them. The Williston English Department believes in the importance of confronting challenging material to gain a deeper understanding of, for example, a character's motivation or a larger thematic point an author is attempting to make. However, we also understand and empathize with the uneasiness some students may feel. When you confront challenging passages which cause discomfort, please consider why the character—and by extension the author—brings up this material, and in what ways these scenes or images enhance our understanding of plot, character development, tension, and other literary elements.

Creative assignments in each course ask students to focus on "showing" scenes clearly with vivid details, absorbing the skills of the writers they study, and to carefully consider character motivations, obstacles, and vulnerabilities. Personal essays at each level help students gain a strong yet natural voice in expressing opinions or narrating stories from meaningful moments in their lives. To allow students to find an audience for their work, our department and school programs offer opportunities for students to publish pieces in our literary magazine, newspaper, or community blogs, and we also create forums for public readings, allowing students to engage even more deeply with the words they choose and the sentences they construct. Along with metacognitive writing assignments, where students reflect on their process and growth as writers, all of our reading and writing opportunities encourage the habits of caring about and paying attention to language, with an overarching goal of attempting to understand and express what is "true" about the human experience.

ENGLISH 2200 (9)

YEARLONG COURSE

This foundational course focuses on building analytical skills to help students learn how to read carefully, to ask important questions of the texts they study, and to write in response to those works. Personal essay assignments allow students to gain confidence in discovering their voices, and creative projects allow students to discover the joys and challenges of manipulating language to craft imaginative scenes. Storytelling is a main focus in English 2200, and texts in the course also address questions of the self in relation to community and family, such as *Maus*, *The Catcher in the Rye*, and Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*.

ENGLISH 2300 (10)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course builds on the skills gained in English 2200, beginning with an in-depth study of short fiction and the analytical essay that culminates in students' completion of the Sophomore Writing Project. In the winter trimester, students study the challenging language and themes of Shakespeare and Sophocles, complemented by personal and creative writing as well as dramatic exercises. The spring prepares students for the demands of junior year analysis with explorations of British and American poetry and novels such as *Frankenstein* and *Never Let Me Go*. The course continues the exploration of human nature, studying identity in texts where the self is cast into the role of misfit or outsider.

ENGLISH 2400 (11)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course explores a rich array of American literature, complementing students' study of U.S. History in the junior year. The focus of the writing is largely analytical, and teachers challenge students to provide much greater depth and sophistication in their essay content and presentation as they build on the solid foundation students gain in English 2300. Creative and personal essays continue to complement analytical assignments, while literary criticism figures more prominently as an aid to understanding texts from a variety of perspectives; this study of criticism also adds to students' own analytical writing skills. To explore American-themed questions related to freedom and individuality, conformity, or the American Dream, texts may include works by authors such as Coates, Fitzgerald, Miller, Chopin, O'Connor, Faulkner, Morrison, Dickinson, Whitman, Kesey, and Whitehead.

2490 AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (11)

YEARLONG COURSE

Teacher recommendation required

This course is an advanced-level study of American Literature for juniors who have the analytical skills and intellectual curiosity necessary for a sophisticated examination of literature and language. Students should be passionate about reading and discussing challenging texts, and they should be prepared to write a great deal and in a variety of forms, including in-class essays. In preparation for the AP Exam in May, students will keep their eyes trained on the way authors use language, especially essayists' use of rhetorical strategies. To apply for this course, students must receive a recommendation from their tenth-grade teacher. Summer work includes reading three novels.

ENGLISH 2500 (12)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course begins with students expressing themselves through personal essays, "snapshots," vignettes, and memoirs. Over the course of the first trimester, students build portfolios of their work, providing a rich variety of writing in support of potential college essays. Students examine models of essay style and structure from a range of writers. Through this advanced study of language and the craft of storytelling, students develop strong individual voices and compelling personal narratives. In the winter trimester, students will study a particular genre or theme, honing their skills for the demanding and sophisticated work of college-level analysis. Texts may include *Hamlet*, *The Stranger*, and *Exit West*. The challenge of the first two trimesters prepares students well for the spring, where the focus will shift toward more independent work based on students' specific interests in literature and writing. This senior capstone allows students to craft a project with the help of their teachers and to present their work to the school community.

2590 AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Teacher recommendation required

This course offers our most challenging study of literature and is reserved for seniors with very strong skills in reading comprehension and analytical writing, as well as a deep commitment to examining college-level texts and criticism. The breadth and depth of study of the selected novels, poetry, and plays is quite substantial, as the course prepares students for the rigor of the AP Exam in May and for potential advanced study of English in college. In addition to experiencing an in-depth survey of poets from the Elizabethan era through the 21st century, students should expect to study Shakespeare, Camus, Hamid, Ellison, Plath, and a selection of contemporary writers. Students not already enrolled in AP English Language and Composition must obtain the recommendation of their eleventh-grade teacher.

ELECTIVE COURSES

2618 JOURNALISM

OFFERED EACH TRIMESTER
THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Associated with the production of the student newspaper, *The Willistonian*, this contemporary publication course allows students to have a community voice while giving them real-world writing skills and keeping them in stride with the evolving advances and trends of journalism. Students will learn and practice the skills of story development, including researching and vetting sources, interviewing, reporting, and editing. They will contribute to and help manage the production of a news website and a print publication offering hard and breaking news, feature and soft news stories, opinion columns, photo essays, and reviews. Various publications, including *The New York Times*, will be required online reading. Students may take this course multiple times for credit with instructor's permission.

2900 HONORS WRITERS' WORKSHOP

TWO TRIMESTER COURSE (FIRST AND SECOND TRIMESTER)

This honors course is designed for student writers who want to gain insight into the fiction-writing and creative non-fiction processes. The class requires students to write, share writing, and discuss ways to constructively evaluate their own and each other's work. Four times during the course, a prominent published author reads from his or her work and teaches an evening workshop. Students read from and discuss the work of the guest authors—a wonderful opportunity to engage with those who have made the writing craft a career. Authors who have visited in recent years include Karen Shepard, Jim Shepard, Roger Reeves, Colum McCann, and Colson Whitehead.

2910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: ENGLISH (11, 12)

THIRD TRIMESTER
THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.
Prerequisite: Departmental approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See Special Programs for complete description. This course is open to juniors and seniors in standard or AP English. Seniors enrolled in English 2500 may seek permission to transfer from the standard English section to Honors Williston Scholars: English for the third trimester.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

2101 ADVANCED ENGLISH FOR LANGUAGE LEARNERS (9,10)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course is designed to support students' transitioning into standard English class. With a primary focus on literacy practices inherent to the language, students will improve their language acquisition and deepen their cultural understanding. The major components of this course help increase targeted skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will be prompted to speak both formally and informally to focus on fluency, grammatical skills, and vocabulary development. Placement into Advanced ELL or standard English for non-native English speakers is determined by a review of previous course work in the language, test scores, and review by the Academic Dean. It may include an English aptitude test. All students in Advanced ELL will take standard English concurrently as a Pass/Fail course in order to further enhance their language learning.

MATH & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Mathematics is the language of the universe. It is beautiful, logical, abstract, relevant, and practical. Furthermore, a background in mathematics can lead you just about anywhere. Math majors have chosen careers in law, medicine, computer science, engineering, philosophy, and the visual and performing arts. An increasing number of professions require knowledge of higher mathematics.

The Williston Mathematics & Computer Science Department strives to expose all students to the beauty of the work by the great mathematicians—Noether, Erdos, Newton, Escher, Turing, and Lovelace—while also realizing that many, if not all, students will need mathematics for its practical applications. Through their studies of mathematics and with the support of a dedicated faculty, Williston students at all levels build habits of mind that prepare them for what lies ahead.

The primary goal of the Williston Mathematics & Computer Science Department is to help prepare students for college mathematics. The course sequence—Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II—teaches the foundation of mathematics that all students need. Once they have mastered the foundation, students can delve more deeply into mathematics through a variety of upper-level courses. While the content of these courses varies, the goal of each course is the same: to help students become creative problem-solvers.

In addition to various course options, students will use a range of tools and learning environments. They will use computers to explore mathematics, or calculators to assist with graphing and computation. At other times, students will work in small groups to investigate a topic. These experiences encourage a flexible approach to mathematics.

Williston teachers are dedicated to supporting their students wherever they are at in their arc through the world of mathematics. Each course offers the opportunity to review basic skills and to master the core knowledge of the subject. Students are expected to actively participate with their whole class as well as in small groups. Students are challenged to move beyond memorized rules to discover the source of rules, to examine why they work, and to theorize about how they are used to solve problems.

Note: A TI-84 Plus graphing calculator is required for all math courses. It is the only model for which classroom instruction is provided.

3110 ALGEBRA I

YEARLONG COURSE

Algebra is the language of mathematics. This course develops the fundamentals of that language and emphasizes applications of algebra to a wide variety of problem situations.

3210 GEOMETRY ESSENTIALS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop a strong foundation in geometry. Emphasis is placed on personal and group investigations into geometric relationships on the plane and in space. Students use computers to explore and enrich the course.

3200 GEOMETRY

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra I

The content of a traditional geometry course is covered, with emphasis placed on personal and group investigations into geometric relationships on the plane and in space. Students use computers to explore and enrich the course.

3205 HONORS GEOMETRY

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Algebra I and departmental approval

This course is offered for highly motivated and interested students who are ready to take more responsibility and initiative for their own learning. The content includes all of Geometry 3200 and other topics, as well. An emphasis will be placed on exploring multiple methods of problem-solving. All are studied in greater depth, with an emphasis on deductive reasoning and proof.

3300 ALGEBRA II ESSENTIALS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry or Geometry Essentials

This course will provide an opportunity for students to develop a strong foundation in algebra. This second year of algebra emphasizes skill building and problem-solving. Students will complete an extensive study of linear equations, inequalities, systems of equations, polynomials, rational expressions, radicals, and quadratic functions.

3310 ALGEBRA II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

The concepts of algebra explored in Algebra I and Geometry are developed further. The topic of functions is emphasized, in particular, in regard to linear, quadratic, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Algebraic manipulations and graphing functions are also emphasized.

3315 HONORS ALGEBRA II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Algebra I, Honors Geometry, and departmental approval

This honors section is offered for highly motivated and interested students. The course covers significantly more material at a faster pace than does standard Algebra II (3310), including additional topics in graphing, polynomials, rational functions, trigonometry, and solving complex equations. In general, all topics are covered in greater depth. This course is required for continuation in more advanced honors math classes.

3400 PRECALCULUS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra II and departmental approval

This course begins with a careful study of functions. Linear and quadratic functions are reviewed. Students focus on exponential functions, logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, polynomial functions, and rational functions. The emphasis throughout is to create a foundation for the study of calculus. The course emphasizes applications and careful reading and interpretation of mathematical problems. Graphing calculators are used extensively to help visualize mathematical relationships. Students need a strong background in algebra to do well in this course.

3405 HONORS PRECALCULUS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Algebra II and departmental approval

This is an advanced and enriched course for students who plan to continue with AP Calculus. Many topics will be explored with the use of technology. The course covers significantly more material at a faster pace than does standard Precalculus (3400) including graphical analysis, polar and parametric functions, complex arithmetic, conical sections, matrices, counting methods and discrete probability, sequences and series, and an introduction to limits. All topics are covered in much greater depth. Emphasis is placed on understanding mathematical concepts and interpreting mathematical solutions within the context of a certain problem.

3505 TRIGONOMETRY, PROBABILITY, & STATISTICS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II Essentials

This course will give students the knowledge and skills needed to navigate a world permeated by data. Students will learn to communicate graphically, numerically, and verbally, while building an understanding of the topics of trigonometry, probability, and statistics. Various software packages will be utilized. While the course emphasizes applications to real data, the aim of the course is to achieve mastery of mathematical theory and methods, by applying abstract ideas in a variety of contexts, including finance, sports, and the environment.

3510 TOPICS IN DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra II or Algebra II Essentials

This course focuses on real-world problem-solving strategies with emphasis on reasoning, communication, collaboration, and critical thinking. Problem-solving can be summarized as knowing what to do when you do not know how to start/approach a problem. Students will solve problems using matrix logic, systematic lists, elimination of possibilities, pattern recognition and more. This course is intended for juniors and seniors who have either completed Precalculus and are not prepared to continue with Calculus, or who have completed Algebra II or Trigonometry, Probability, and Statistics and are not prepared for Precalculus.

3590 AP STATISTICS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Precalculus or Precalculus and departmental approval

This rigorous course acquaints students with the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Four broad conceptual themes are emphasized: exploring data, planning a study, anticipating patterns, and inferring statistical information. Students work on projects involving the hands-on gathering and analysis of real-world data. This course will have applications for students who wish to pursue studies in laboratory science, engineering, psychology, economics, or sociology, among others.

3600 CALCULUS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Precalculus or Precalculus and departmental approval

This course covers the fundamental ideas of college-level calculus. The concepts of limits, differentiation, integration, and their application are developed through a careful analysis of the properties of graphs, numerical tables, and algebraic equations.

3690 AP CALCULUS AB

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Precalculus and departmental approval

This college-level course covers the required syllabus for AP Calculus and additional topics at the discretion of the instructor. This advanced course is intended for students who thrive on mathematical challenge. The core concepts of limit, derivative, and integral are studied through a combination of discovery, lecture, and individual work. Graphing calculators will be used extensively to help visualize functions and their relationships.

3695 AP CALCULUS BC & MULTIVARIABLE CALCULUS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: AP Calculus AB and departmental approval

This class is intended for advanced students who are ready for college-level mathematics. The course begins with a study of sequences and series, leading toward the development of the Taylor Series. Students will complete the balance of the BC Calculus curriculum in the fall. The study of multivariable functions provides the central core of the latter part of this course. We will use computer software to visualize surfaces in three dimensions. We will also discuss the topics of n-space. The course will extend the concepts of limit, derivative, and integral to these multivariable functions and will cover the content of both BC calculus and vector calculus.

3700 HONORS DISCRETE MATHEMATICS

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Precalculus and departmental approval

This college-level math course is for advanced students who love mathematical challenges, and who work well independently. Discrete Mathematics considers a collection of topics designed to provide the background for college work in mathematics, computer science, operations research, and other related fields. Topics include linear algebra, combinatorics, graph theory, number theory, and mathematical proof techniques. Additional topics are chosen at the discretion of the instructor.

ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

These interdisciplinary courses weave together concepts from science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to support the introduction of programming, electronics, and computer science.

3801 ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Geometry or departmental approval

We explore fundamentals of engineering and robotics in this introductory course. Students learn the C++ and C/ROBOTC computer programming languages and program robots to move in various situations using motors, servo motors, encoders, and real-time sensors. Class "challenges" will test each student's mastery of course topics.

3807 PROGRAMMING IN PYTHON

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course introduces students to the Python computer language and the world of object-oriented programming. Major programming constructs—data types, conditionals, control structures, and analytic skills—will be introduced and explored. Students will learn to plan, design, and construct Python classes and objects and to work with several Python modules and packages. Programs developed during the trimester will utilize simple algorithms and control structures, method calling, arrays and array lists, and other advanced topics.

3808 APPLICATIONS OF A.I. (NEW COURSE)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Applications of AI will introduce the basic principles of computer science, with a special focus on artificial intelligence. In this course, students will investigate the basics of machine learning models and their societal impacts. At the end of the course, students will have the opportunity to build their own machine-learning models focusing on topics such as image classification and natural language processing.

3895 AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra II completed or co-enrolled

As designed by College Board, "AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem-solving." The five major units in the course are: the Internet, Digital Information, Algorithms and Programming, Big Data and Privacy, and Building Apps. Unlike AP Computer Science A, which focuses solely on mastery of the Java programming language, this course is meant to be an introduction to a variety of sociological, creative, ethical, and economic considerations in addition to the basic computational structures underlying all programming languages.

3890 AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Completion of Precalculus (3400 or 3405) or Honors Algebra II (3315). Also, completion of at least one trimester coding course (38xx) or equivalent prior experience by permission of instructor

This intensive college-level course covers the syllabus for AP Computer Science A. The Java programming language is used to explore advanced topics including classes, objects, lists, inheritance, recursion, searching/sorting, and complex data.

3910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: MATH (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See Special Programs for complete description.

SCIENCE

The science faculty at Williston strive to instill in their students a passion for science. We encourage inquisitiveness about the natural world and challenge our students to understand what they cannot see.

The core curriculum includes traditional physics, chemistry, and biology courses. The department strongly recommends that students take these yearlong courses in that order. Advanced Placement courses in biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, and environmental science are available for highly motivated students. Through trimester electives, juniors and seniors can engage in detailed study of specific topics such as animal behavior, genetics, ecology, psychology, organic chemistry, or astronomy.

The pursuit of science at Williston is not limited to the classrooms of Scott Hall. It's not unusual to see projectiles flying from windows around campus when physics students study velocity and acceleration. Videography and applications on the Surface tablet give students the opportunity to record their experiences and let faculty introduce classes to sophisticated experimental designs. From our campus pond and fields, biology students gather samples that are subjected to a wide variety of analyses.

Outdoor labs allow our students to study the environment directly and take advantage of open spaces to test theories learned in the classroom. Through indoor laboratory experience, our students gain confidence in using sophisticated equipment and analyzing data. Classes in the Science Department often blend computer-assisted data collection with established student inquiry and analysis using cutting-edge technology.

We instill in students an appreciation of the evolution of scientific principles and the fluidity of scientific "facts." Through close work with faculty, our students gain insight into the collaborative nature of scientific inquiry and its role in scientific questioning and experimentation.

Students gain a solid foundation from the Science Department's core courses that they can then sharpen with electives, which strengthen the sophisticated interests of both students and faculty. The science faculty are committed to challenging themselves and their students through ever-changing experimentation and demonstration. As reflected in our curriculum and practiced in our daily lessons, science is an active subject at Williston.

4310 PHYSICS (9, 10)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course uses an inquiry-based approach to introduce students to the fundamental principles of the natural world: motion, forces, and energy. Much of the material will rely on hands-on projects and experiments. Students will work collaboratively to discover both qualitative and quantitative scientific relationships, develop observational and critical thinking skills, and work to communicate effectively in a scientific forum. Topics in the course are designed to engage the students' scientific curiosity in the world around them.

4315 HONORS PHYSICS (9, 10)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Completion of Algebra I and departmental approval based on performance in previous math and science courses

This first-year course is intended specifically for ninth and tenth grade students with keen interest in science and strong problem-solving skills. It will provide a deeper understanding of the core aspects of physics. Success in this course often aligns with concurrent enrollment in Honors Geometry or a more advanced math course.

4200 ENVIRONMENTAL CHEMISTRY (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Placement by the department

This course approaches the study of chemistry by focusing on the effects of chemistry on our daily lives with less emphasis on mathematical analysis. Mining and refining metals, air pollutants and the greenhouse effect, the environmental impact on water supplies, and the chemistry of energy sources are a few of the recurring environmental connections covered in this course. Students read and report on current event science articles and will complete a summative project each trimester. This course will prepare students for Biology.

4210 CHEMISTRY (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Completion of Physics 4310 or 4315. Concurrent enrollment with Algebra 2 or higher is recommended

Designed to give a basic understanding of the nature of matter and of its relation to energy, the aim of this course is to explain the primary laws, hypotheses, and theories of chemistry.

4215 HONORS CHEMISTRY (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Departmental approval based on performance in Physics and Mathematics

This course covers the same topics as Chemistry 4210 but will provide a deeper understanding of the topics at a faster pace and with more rigorous problem-solving. Success in this course often aligns with enrollment in Honors Algebra II or a more advanced math course. This course provides a strong foundation for the AP Chemistry curriculum.

4100 BIOLOGY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Physics required, and Chemistry strongly suggested

This course is an introduction to the basic biological principles and methods used in science. Homework and lab work are designed to encourage students to interact with the material and to understand how experiments explain the interrelationships between organisms and their environment. Following an opening section on the scientific method and chemistry of life, we focus on the cell and its parts and functions. The rest of the year is spent looking at DNA structure and function, genetics, reproduction, and a closer examination and comparative study of body systems.

4105 HONORS BIOLOGY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Physics and Chemistry, and departmental approval

This course covers the same topics as Biology 4100 but will provide a deeper understanding of the topics at a faster pace. This course provides a strong foundation for the AP Biology curriculum.

4190 AP BIOLOGY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Biology 4100 or 4105, Chemistry 4210 or 4215, and departmental approval

This course follows a syllabus approved by the college board, and the expectations for both daily preparation and laboratory work are high. The objectives are to understand the underlying principles which encompass the core scientific principles, theories, and processes governing living organisms and biological systems, as well as developing competence in experimental practice and analysis of scientific evidence.

4290 AP CHEMISTRY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Chemistry 4210 or 4215, and departmental approval

This course is for students who have successfully completed a year of chemistry and wish to extend their knowledge beyond the introductory level. The topics and lab exercises of an approved AP curriculum are followed.

4350 PHYSICS (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This first-year course is designed as an introduction to physics for incoming juniors and seniors. Extensive time will be spent on lab experiences that aid in the conceptual development of the basics of motion and energy. Computer-assisted laboratories will supplement the classic experiments. This course will also include units on waves, light, and sound. Students develop problem-solving skills that require the completion of Algebra II. The course includes multiple construction projects that encourage the students to be creative while demonstrating their understanding of physical properties.

4391 AP PHYSICS 1 (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: One year of Physics (4310, 4315, or 4350) recommended, concurrent enrollment in Precalculus, and approval of the department

This course is the equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum), work, energy, and power.

4490 AP PHYSICS C (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: One year of any Physics class, concurrent enrollment in AP Calculus or higher, and approval of the department

This course is the equivalent of a college level physics course for engineers or natural science majors and reviews all the topics covered in such a course, with greater level of complexity allowed by adding calculus. Completion of the course prepares the student for the AP Physics C exams in Mechanics and Electricity & Magnetism. Electricity & Magnetism units include electrostatics with Gauss's Law, complex circuits, magnetism, electromagnetic induction, RC and LR circuits, and Maxwell's Equations. Units in Mechanics include kinematics, energy, momentum, SHM, and rotational motion.

4550 EARTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (11,12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Completion of science graduation requirement (see page 3)

This course explores the intersection of geological and anthropogenic factors shaping the world today, with a strong emphasis on scientific methods, research, and communication. The first trimester focuses on the impact of ethics, economics, and policy on the environment. The second trimester shifts the focus to our planet and examines the biogeological forces that drive Earth's systems. After studying natural forces, students investigate human-driven changes to the environment, such as pollution and climate. The course culminates in the study of contemporary scientific challenges, with students engaging and presenting term projects.

4590 AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Biology (completed or concurrent), Chemistry, and departmental approval

This course follows a syllabus approved by the college board. The course will provide students with scientific principles, methodologies, and concepts necessary to understand the many interrelationships of the natural world. This course is intrinsically interdisciplinary and will include identification and analysis of natural and man-made environmental problems, evaluating the risks associated with such problems, and examining solutions for their resolution or prevention.

ELECTIVE COURSES

4505 ASTRONOMY: PLANETARY (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Physics 4310 or higher Physics course

Students will study the development of our modern understanding of the solar system, including the forces that govern the motion of the planets, phenomena including eclipses, and phases of the moon. We will also survey comets, meteors, asteroids, and the planets of our solar system.

4506 ASTRONOMY: STELLAR (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Physics 4310 or higher Physics course

This course will concentrate on the nature of stars and stellar evolution. To do this, we will study the nature of light and matter, including the wave-particle duality of both. We will also discuss the various types of telescopes and explore how their optics work. As we look at the life of stars, we will consider black holes, supernovas, and pulsars. We will also study the origins and possible fates of the universe.

4503 GENETICS (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Biology, or concurrently with Biology after trimester one

This course investigates the molecular workings of cellular genetics. The specifics behind DNA replication, protein synthesis, and the regulation of gene expression will be covered in depth. Chromosome mutations and the various genetic disorders that they cause will be studied, as well as genetic engineering, epigenetics, and the ethical and moral issues that arise as a result of new technology. In this discussion-heavy class, students read current event genetic articles and case studies from popular science genetics books. Students will complete several independent research projects.

4502 OUTDOOR ECOLOGY (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Completed full year of Chemistry 4210 or 4215

This course engages the student in the general study of ecology through application to the local area in which we live. Students explore the complexity of interactions between living things and their environment through readings, analyzing scientific data, and hands-on investigations. Students experientially become acquainted with the methods of ecological study including observation, modeling, and experimentation. Students spend approximately one-third of the class time outdoors observing and investigating components of the variety of ecosystems present on campus and in the surrounding areas. The culminating project gives students the opportunity to demonstrate understanding by applying several areas of study to a topic or region of their own interest within the frameworks of the course.

4507 HUMAN PHYSIOLOGY AND KINESIOLOGY (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology (completed or concurrently)

This course introduces human physiology and kinesiology while focusing on the maintenance of homeostasis through the operations of complex control systems. Study will encompass all levels of the hierarchy of human structure and integrated function with emphasis on the skeletal, muscle, nervous, and endocrine systems. Lab activities accompany topics and, when possible, principles are applied to exercise.

4510 FORENSIC SCIENCE (11 WITH PERMISSION, 12)

OFFERED EACH TRIMESTER

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Biology (completed or concurrently)

This course will be based heavily on lab science that stresses the importance of applying positive and negative controls in experiments. Procedures in collecting and interpreting criminal evidence will be examined. Students will learn how to perform scientific inquiry, understand the process of experimental design, and analyze and synthesize data to draw conclusions. Forensics experiments will include evidence classification, ballistics, blood splatter analysis, fingerprint classification, DNA fingerprinting, handwriting analysis, chromatography, and toxicology. Students will also complete investigation reports using forensic evidence that supports an accusation.

4600 BEHAVIORAL PSYCHOLOGY (10 WITH PERMISSION, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Not open to students who are concurrently enrolled or have already completed 4690 AP Psychology

This course provides a scientific study of behavior and the mind and brain. The focus will be on both the historical development of the field of psychology, as well as current research and application.

4610 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY (10 WITH PERMISSION, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Not open to students who are concurrently enrolled or have already completed 4690 AP Psychology

This course provides a systematic introduction to the field of social psychology, which studies how the thoughts, feelings, and behaviors of a person are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others. The course will cover topics such as attitudes, group behavior, prejudice and discrimination, interpersonal relationships, conformity, obedience, and altruism.

4611 CHILD DEVELOPMENT (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course will focus on human growth and development from birth through adolescence. We will investigate child development theory, as well as research- and evidence-based practices about the physical, social/emotional, and cognitive/language development of children. Part of the course will include observations of children in an early childhood setting and in the home.

4614 SCIENCE AND SOCIETY (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Our species is defined by its ability to learn, use tools, and shape its environment. Moreover, our scientific and technological progress has played an integral role in molding every aspect of our civilizations: from the food we eat, to the manner in which we treat disease, to the way we enforce the rules of our societies. This laboratory science course will examine aspects of science and technology that have revolutionized human civilization. Students will use lectures, laboratory work, independent research, and discussions to grasp the scientific principles that underlie the subject and societal impact of the ideas and technologies we study. Examples of units: Agriculture and Food Science, Disease & Medicine, Mass Production, Transportation and Navigation, Evolutionary Theory in Society.

4690 AP PSYCHOLOGY (12/PG ONLY)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

This survey course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of behavior and mental processes of human beings. Students are exposed to the psychological theories, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields of psychology, including the ethics and methods of research, biological bases of behavior, human development, sensations and perception, cognition, thinking and language, intelligence, learning, states of consciousness, personality, abnormal psychology, therapy, and social psychology. Case studies, debates, in-class presentations, class discussions, and an experiment design will complement practice with AP-style questions and essays.

4910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: SCIENCE (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See Special Programs for complete description.

NOT OFFERED THIS YEAR

- 4392 AP Physics 2
- 4501 Animal Behavior
- 4509 Botany
- 6417 Science and History of Climate Change

LANGUAGE

The Williston Northampton School's Language Department inspires students to communicate in new ways, to make meaningful connections, to expand their world view, and to enrich their communities.

Williston's language program is committed to developing the linguistic and cultural literacy of our students and encouraging them to become active citizens of our increasingly multicultural world. As students learn language through reading, writing, speaking, and listening, they also experience how the study of another language opens doors to a greater understanding of others—and of themselves. We teach language actively and place students in the central role. Our teachers blend traditional and contemporary teaching styles to provide students with a variety of ways to develop their fluency and ease of expression.

All modern language courses, whether beginning or advanced, prioritize students' oral proficiency in the language. In all three languages and at every level, we encourage our students to examine and understand the ways of thinking that make each culture unique. Students implement their language skills through culturally rooted projects and presentations to foster a broader understanding of the cultures that speak the target language.

Williston's location in the Pioneer Valley and our ties with the Five Colleges provide our students with invaluable opportunities. Latin students attend the Pioneer Valley Classics Association's annual Classics Day at the University of Massachusetts, where they participate in workshops and contests that deepen their understanding of Roman culture. To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month over the past three years we have invited the Afro-Puerto Rican dance and music ensemble Bomba de Aqui to visit Spanish classes and perform at our all-school assembly.

The Language Department also supports and encourages travel abroad: language students can embrace travel opportunities through School Year Abroad, an interscholastic program that sends students to Spain, France, or Italy for the summer, a semester, or an entire school year.

FRENCH

5110 FRENCH I

YEARLONG COURSE

Students build a foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the French language. Emphasis is placed upon mastery of the French sound system, basic vocabulary, and fundamental grammar concepts in the present tense.

5120 FRENCH II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: French I

Material covered in the first year is reviewed along with additional grammar, vocabulary, and idioms. Students learn the passé composé verb tense and begin work on narrating in the past. Emphasis is placed upon strengthening and advancing the four major skills of language study—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—while familiarizing students with the culture and traditions of French-speaking people.

5125 HONORS FRENCH II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: French I and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an accelerated and enriched version of the standard course, with additional reading, writing, and conversational demands. Tenses covered: passé composé and imparfait.

5130 FRENCH III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: French II

Vocabulary acquisition increases in the third year while students expand their study of grammar and review of all previously learned material. New tenses include the imparfait and futur. Readings provide opportunities for conversation and composition, while developing the student's awareness of and appreciation for cultural differences.

5135 HONORS FRENCH III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors French II and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an accelerated and enriched version of the standard course, with increased reading and conversational demands as well as close attention to the finer points of French grammar. Tenses covered: futur and conditionnel.

5140 FRENCH IV

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: French III

This course seeks to develop students' existing skills in spoken and written French through the interactive study and discussion of a variety of films, music, and texts. Students also deepen their listening and reading skills while building vocabulary and essential grammar. Themes may include daily life in France, regional French culture through films, modern French culture, and francophone themes.

5160 HONORS FRENCH SEMINAR

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: French IV or Honors French III and departmental approval. This course is designed for French language learners as opposed to native speakers.

Students focus on reading, writing, and cultural literacy in preparation for the AP French Language course. Students develop vocabulary and reading comprehension strategies with contemporary, francophone, and literary readings. A comprehensive review of French grammar in conjunction with written compositions promotes fluent written expression. Students learn about the diverse cultures of the francophone world through a variety of media (songs, films, and texts).

5190 AP FRENCH LANGUAGE

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors French Seminar and departmental approval. This course is designed for French language learners as opposed to native speakers.

This course, conducted entirely in French, contains a wide variety of student-centered activities, all of which practice at least one of the communicative skills tested by the AP Exam. Further, all tenses are reviewed throughout the year, as are various grammar points, depending on the need demonstrated by that year's students. Throughout the course of the year, students establish and examine essential questions for each of the College Board's six themes: global challenges, science and technology, contemporary life, personal and public identities, beauty and aesthetics, and families and communities. In addition to this work and the practice exercises furnished by preparing for the AP French Exam, class is supplemented by authentic materials including articles, short stories, blog entries, poems, novels, films, radio broadcasts, podcasts, and music.

LATIN

5710 LATIN I

YEARLONG COURSE

This introductory course gives students a solid grounding in the fundamental elements of Latin. Emphasis is placed on learning vocabulary and building translation skills. Students strengthen English vocabulary and language skills through close examination of Latin words and syntax. Roman cultural and historical investigations round out our study.

5720 LATIN II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Latin I

Students continue the study of Latin vocabulary, grammar, syntax, culture, and history begun in Latin I. Emphasis is placed on reading and comprehension skills, in addition to cultural topics.

5725 HONORS LATIN II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Latin I and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an enriched version of the standard Latin II program in which the demands of the course dramatically increase.

5730 LATIN III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Latin II

In this course, students complete their study of advanced grammar and begin translating and analyzing passages of authentic Latin prose and poetry. Cultural and historical units emphasize Roman values as well as key historical and mythological themes and figures.

5735 HONORS LATIN III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Latin II and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an enriched version of the standard Latin III program in which the demands of the course dramatically increase.

5745 HONORS LATIN IV

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Latin III and departmental approval

In this course, students translate prose and verse selections from a variety of Latin authors, with a focus on the events of the late republic and early empire. In preparation for the AP course, students build vocabulary, strengthen translation, develop stylistic analysis skills, and investigate essential questions of Roman history.

5790 AP LATIN

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Honors Latin IV and Department approval

Vergil's Aeneid and Pliny's Letters are studied according to the AP curriculum through translation of selected portions of the text. The course focuses on building the skills of literal translation, reading comprehension, interpretation, and use of supporting Latin citations. In preparation for the AP exam in May, students closely study the rhetorical structure and cultural and historical significance of both Pliny's and Vergil's texts.

SPANISH

5510 SPANISH I

YEARLONG COURSE

Students build a foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the Spanish language. Stress is placed upon proficiency in the Spanish sound system, basic vocabulary, and fundamental grammar concepts.

5520 SPANISH II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Material covered in the first year is reviewed along with additional grammar, vocabulary, and idioms. Emphasis is placed upon strengthening and advancing the four major skills of language study—listening, speaking, reading, and writing—while familiarizing the students with the culture and traditions of Spanish-speaking peoples.

5525 HONORS SPANISH II

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Spanish I and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an accelerated and enriched version of the standard Spanish II program with increased reading and conversational demands.

5530 SPANISH III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Spanish II

The third year stresses vocabulary development and reviews and expands the study of Spanish grammar, with intensive practice of the Spanish verb system and tenses, including the indicative, imperative, and subjunctive moods. Readings provide opportunities for conversation and composition, while developing the student's awareness of and appreciation for cultural differences.

5535 HONORS SPANISH III

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Honors Spanish II and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an accelerated and enriched version of the standard Spanish III program with increased reading and conversational demands, as well as closer attention to the finer points of Spanish grammar.

5540 SPANISH IV

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Spanish III

This course introduces students to the civilizations and cultures of Spain and Latin America. Through project-based learning, students study the Spanish-speaking worlds of today through the lens of historical events. A review of grammar provides students with the linguistic tools for daily communicative activities. Contemporary Spanish and Latin American films serve as platforms for students to delve further into cultural topics while improving their oral and written proficiency through daily exercises.

5560 HONORS SPANISH SEMINAR

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Departmental approval and completion of Spanish IV or Honors Spanish III. This course is designed for Spanish language learners as opposed to native speakers.

In this course students increase their Spanish proficiency while developing advanced critical-thinking and composition skills. Through close study of Spanish and Latin American literature and cinema, students engage with a wide range of cultural, historical, and social perspectives from the Spanish-speaking world. Grammar is taught in context and applied directly to writing and discussion with the goal of producing more precise, nuanced, and polished language. This course is designed to prepare students for AP Spanish Language the following year.

5590 AP SPANISH LANGUAGE

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisites: Departmental approval and completion of Honors Spanish Seminar. This course is designed for Spanish language learners as opposed to native speakers.

Taken as a fifth year of Spanish, this college-level course focuses on developing a high level of competence in speaking, writing, listening, and reading. Literary and journalistic texts continue the study of Hispanic culture and serve as the basis for vocabulary study, class discussions, and compositions. The course includes a variety of advanced speaking and listening activities and a thorough review of grammar.

5800 SPANISH OUTREACH

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisites: Completion of 5530 or 5535 or permission of instructor.

In this elective course, students have the opportunity to apply their learning by preparing and teaching Spanish lessons to elementary school students. Through this hands-on practicum experience, students gain teaching experience while deepening their understanding and appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world. Students enhance their Spanish language skills while working collaboratively with their teachers and peers to design, implement, and evaluate teaching materials and strategies. During class meeting time, students visit a community elementary school to teach the lessons they have designed, developing their leadership skills and making a positive impact on younger learners in their community.

5910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: LANGUAGE (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See Special Programs for a complete description.

SCHOOL YEAR ABROAD

The Language Department encourages students to consider participation in the School Year Abroad (SYA) program in France, Spain, or Italy. SYA is designed for high school students, and at Williston most participants are juniors.

At SYA, intensive language study is an integral part of an ongoing college preparatory program. Credits may be transferred from SYA to Williston upon successful completion of course work.

Sophomores interested in a junior year abroad should speak with the Academic Dean during the first trimester of tenth grade prior to applying. Interested juniors in good academic and social standing may, at the end of the first trimester of eleventh grade, petition the Academic Dean for permission to attend SYA during senior year. Students wishing to enroll in this program for a semester should plan to do so in the spring.

Upon successful completion of the SYA program, the student may expect to receive a diploma from Williston provided that 1) the petitioning student has completed at least two years of study at Williston and 2) the academic diploma requirements of Williston have been met. For more information about the program visit www.sya.org.

HISTORY & GLOBAL STUDIES

The History & Global Studies curriculum provides students with an understanding of the forces that have shaped the past and continue to influence the world today. Our program encourages the development of the critical skills necessary to make educated choices that will determine the future. In short, we prepare students to embrace an ever-changing world.

We examine life in a global community through required study in the Humanities, World History, and either U.S. History or U.S. Government, and deepen that understanding through core electives such as European History, Comparative Government, and Economics. In addition, we offer the opportunity to study a range of topics including International Relations, Women's and Gender Studies, Immigration, and Germany and World War II. Through our religion and philosophy courses, the department introduces students to the ideas, beliefs, cultures, and spiritual writings of the world's greatest religions and philosophical traditions.

History & Global Studies faculty aim to foster their students' curiosity and help them develop the skills necessary for lifelong learning. Students learn that history is not a static body of dates and facts but an evolving series of interpretations of the past. Through the process of reading and writing, and taking part in problem-solving discussions, students learn to investigate historical questions, analyze sources, and effectively express their ideas. Through our relationships with the Five Colleges, students can take advantage of unique opportunities to participate in special courses, lectures, workshops, and visits to the nearby colleges that are part of Williston's vibrant academic community.

As our students develop a critical understanding of their world, we hope to inspire them to become engaged citizens who exercise both independence of thought and respect for individual differences in their search for truth and justice.

NINTH GRADE HUMANITIES

The ninth grade humanities program consists of three trimester courses in human rights, religious studies, and the arts. Each ninth grade student is required to complete the human rights and religious studies course along with one introductory trimester art class of their choosing. See below for the list of introductory arts classes.

6110 HUMANITIES: HUMAN RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE (9)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course introduces students to the study of social justice movements and human rights issues. Students will trace the origins and history of international human rights and consider human rights in practice today, exploring how different actors—such as national governments, the U.N., international courts, NGOs, and individuals—influence human rights around the world. Students consider current challenges in human rights, and the ways that social justice movements promote and protect human rights, as well as the influence of social media on social justice movements. In conjunction with the Humanities: Religious Studies course, students will be well prepared for future history and global studies courses. They will learn research, critical thinking, writing, and rhetoric that will serve as a foundation for future classes. The course will emphasize CORE—the ninth grade theme. Students will be evaluated based on rubrics linked to Curiosity, Organization, Reflection and Empathy for each unit.

6710 HUMANITIES: RELIGIOUS STUDIES (9)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course introduces students to the academic study of religion and philosophy by exploring Buddhism, Islam, and the major theories of Western Ethics. Students study Buddhism and Islam in its historical and cultural contexts, analyzing its core values and practices before completing a research project exploring its impact around the globe today. Additionally, this course introduces students to the discipline of philosophy by studying the key ideas in western ethics, providing them the necessary background to write a thesis defense paper on an applied ethics topic of their choice. In conjunction with the Humanities: Human Rights & Social Justice course, this course provides students with a broader perspective of global issues. By practicing research, critical thinking, writing, and rhetoric, students will be well prepared for future history and global studies courses at Williston and beyond. The course will emphasize CORE—the ninth grade theme. Students will also be evaluated based on rubrics linked to Curiosity, Organization, Reflection and Empathy throughout the course.

HUMANITIES: ARTS (9)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Ninth graders will each choose one of the following arts courses as part of their humanities sequence. See the Visual and Performing Arts section for course descriptions.

- 7050 Studio Basics
- 7120 Digital Design: 2D
- 7122 Digital Design: CAD
- 7130 Architectural Design
- 7210 Drawing
- 7310 Painting
- 7411 Sculpture
- 7501 Darkroom Photography
- 7502 Digital Photography
- 7511 Film Making I
- 7601 Acting I
- 7623 Playwriting & Screenwriting
- 7734 Teller Chorus
- 7745 Instrumental Ensemble
- 7750 Music Production

6105 MODERN WORLD HISTORY (10)

YEARLONG COURSE

The course begins in 1200 C.E. and reaches the present day, covering several regions of the world. We focus on the impact of history on present concerns through various lenses, such as technology, race, gender, class, and global intellectual transformations. Students build historical thinking skills including contextualization, comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. Using an inquiry-based approach to learning, students learn to read and analyze primary sources, write thesis-driven research essays, give oral presentations, and engage meaningfully in discussions.

6190 AP WORLD HISTORY: MODERN (10)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: All applicants must be approved by the department

This course accomplishes the mission of the standard Modern World History course but offers a broader range of sources and discussions. Students will be prepared for the AP Exam in May.

6310 UNITED STATES HISTORY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

This study of United States history is designed to help students develop a critical appreciation of American society, improve their mastery of the skills of inquiry and expression, and discover greater intellectual curiosity, persistence, and responsibility. Students consider the human actions and forces responsible for social, economic, and political institutions from colonial times to the present. Students practice exploring historical questions, engaging in critical thinking, and expressing their ideas in diverse ways. These include participating in class discussions, analyzing primary sources, writing essays, and presenting their work. A main focus of this course is the creation of a major independent research paper.

6390 AP UNITED STATES HISTORY (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: All applicants must be approved by the department

This course accomplishes the mission of the standard United States history course but offers a broader range of sources and discussions. Students will be prepared for and are expected to take the AP Exam in May.

ELECTIVE COURSES

The following elective courses are either one or three trimesters in length, and unless indicated otherwise, are open to tenth graders only by permission of the department.

6200 EUROPEAN HISTORY: RENAISSANCE TO THE PRESENT (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

This course presents an overview of the important forces that shaped European History from the Renaissance to the Present. Each unit will emphasize the development of important skills, including reading primary sources, writing an historical essay, giving oral presentations, and media literacy. The class will focus on important themes in the history of Europe with an emphasis on art, economic, political, and social history.

6400 NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Students will examine the development of American history from the perspective of Native Americans. We will investigate both the development of various eastern woodland Indian nations and the process of interaction between the first settlers and the subsequent European immigrants. The themes of accommodation, resistance, adaptation, and persistence will be considered.

6402 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (11,12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: US History

In an ever-changing post-9/111 world, we are forced to examine what comes next for American foreign policy. The old system of Cold War ideological thinking no longer applies in an era when the traditional nation-state is losing its importance. This course will look at the lessons of the 20th century and explore what the future holds for the United States in an increasingly global society. We will cover important social, cultural, political, economic, and military events of the 20th century including the crisis in the Middle East, economic relations among the major industrial blocs, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

6411 CONTEMPORARY WORLD ISSUES (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course will examine contemporary world issues such as climate change, war, human rights, nuclear weapons, terrorism, international trade and globalization, refugees, and the United Nations. Students will examine the historical foundations of these issues, different global perspectives of these issues, the way the media covers them, and potential solutions or methods of dealing with each issue. Students will participate in class discussions, projects, presentations, and individual research assignments.

6415 SOCIAL MOVEMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: Must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in U.S. History 6310, 6390, or 6592

This course examines the political, economic, historical, and ideological origins of selected movements, from the late 19th century to the present. It will explore the rhetoric/tactics employed to achieve the movements' goals, along with the responses these movements elicited from the public and from structures of power.

6416 HISTORY OF SPORT (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course explores the history of sport within and beyond the borders of the U.S. Students will consider various perspectives on the growth of sport in society. With an eye to issues relevant to 21st-century students, we will examine perspectives on histories of Title IX, sports broadcasting, sports betting, and the NCAA.

6505 COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT & POLITICS (10, 11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Students in this course are introduced to political science while studying six core countries—Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria, and Mexico. In addition, the course explores general concepts pertaining to political relationships and the constitutional features common to virtually all national governments. As students gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of how governments function, we will explore related concepts including regionalism, democracy, sovereignty, pluralism, nationalism, ideology, globalization, and national security

6510 CITIZEN AND CONSTITUTION (10, 11, 12) (NEW COURSE)

YEARLONG COURSE

This yearlong government elective gives students a deep look into the roots, structure, and ongoing challenges of the American political system. Using the We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution (Level 3) curriculum, students will explore the ideas behind the Constitution, how it was designed by the Framers, and how its interpretation has changed over time through amendments and Supreme Court decisions. Students will also look closely at all the ways people take part in government today. An essential part of the course is preparing for and going to the We the People state competition in February. Students work in collaborative units to write formal congressional testimony, give oral presentations, and answer detailed constitutional questions from panels of judges. Students will build skills in critical thinking, civil discourse, and careful analysis of primary texts. They will learn to apply constitutional ideas to current political issues, helping them better understand the role of citizens in a democratic society today.

6591 AP COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Students in this course are introduced to political science while preparing for the AP exam. Six core countries—Great Britain, Russia, China, Iran, Nigeria, and Mexico—will be examined and compared. In addition, the course explores general concepts pertaining to political relationships and the constitutional features common to virtually all national governments. As students gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of how governments function, we will explore related concepts including regionalism, democracy, sovereignty, pluralism, nationalism, ideology, globalization, and national security. Students are expected to take the AP exam in May.

6595 AP AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (11,12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Must have completed or be concurrently enrolled in U.S. History 6310, 6390, or 6592

This new pilot course, as the College Board explains, "is an interdisciplinary course that draws from a variety of fields—history, literature, the arts, geography, science—to explore the vital contributions and experiences of African Americans. As with all AP courses in the humanities, this is a course that offers direct engagement with evidence and events." Students will be prepared for and are expected to take the AP Exam in May.

6695 AP MICRO & MACROECONOMICS (11, 12)

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Must have completed Algebra II

The goal of this course is to give the student a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers—both consumers and producers—within the larger economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets, and on the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students are expected to take both the AP Microeconomics and AP Macroeconomics exams in May.

6703 PHILOSOPHY (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course introduces students to some of the major fields of philosophy, such as logic, epistemology, identity, and ethics. Students begin by learning the elements of critical thinking fundamental to building a cohesive and coherent philosophical argument. They then progress to the examination of philosophical treatises written by important figures in the history of Western philosophy: René Descartes, David Hume, and John Locke. Special attention is paid in the course to the close reading of difficult primary texts.

6704 HINDUISM AND BUDDHISM (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This offering surveys the two major religions of Asia, Hinduism and Buddhism, exploring the ways in which they are both distinct and distinctly Asian in their orientation. Students read some of the more enduring writings of these traditions, including the Bhagavad Gita and the Diamond Sutra.

6707 EXISTENTIALISM (10, 11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

In this seminar-style exploration of one of the most important philosophical and literary movement of the 20th century, students will read the fiction and philosophy of Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Soren Kierkegaard, Simone de Beauvoir, and Jean-Paul Sartre, among others. Sources will range from philosophical treatises to fiction and film dramatizing the human condition and exploring the fundamental questions of human existence. The development of good critical thinking and writing habits is an integral part of the course.

6910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: HISTORY & GLOBAL STUDIES (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Departmental approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See Special Programs for complete description.

NOT OFFERED THIS YEAR

- 6290 AP European History (10, 11, 12)
- 6404 Women's & Gender Studies (11,12)
- 6405 Germany in World War II (11, 12)
- 6406 Immigration (11, 12)
- 6407 African American History (11,12)
- 6592 AP US Government and Politics (11,12)
- 6600 Economics (11,12)
- 6706 Ethics and Society (11, 12)6417 Science and History of Climate Change

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

The Visual & Performing Arts Department at Williston houses the various arts disciplines within a single department. Our faculty, who are practicing artists in their chosen fields, all bring their professional experiences to their teaching. We strive to instill in our students a broad respect for learning; to develop in them a respect for and enduring interest in the arts through knowledge and experience; to stimulate their awareness of their own creative potential, not only in the arts but in other endeavors; and to equip them with the skills and discipline necessary for pursuing one or more of the visual or performing arts.

The arts faculty, while diverse in their own artistic pursuits, share a common concern for developing human expressiveness and a profound commitment to making the arts an integral part of their students' lives and the life of the entire school community. The arts have historically been a strong thread that binds together all human endeavors and reveals the human response to the world and to one's sense of self. Such awareness illuminates and gives depth to our own experiences. By engaging in studio practices and performing arts—painting, dancing, playing music, singing, and acting—students develop intellectual and cognitive operations that are central to all experiences in school and in life. Engaging with the arts provides a meaningful and constructive connection to other cultures and to the history of the world. Through the arts, students discover a unique opportunity to create community and to share with others, while experiencing the excitement of one's own creative realization and self-discovery. It is our mission as well to train the audiences of tomorrow. We aim to shape audiences who, through their enlightened perception and understanding of the arts, will find their lives enhanced and immeasurably enriched both now and into the future.

The lives of our students are also enriched by our close relationships with the Five Colleges and by the many cultural and artistic offerings in the Pioneer Valley that Williston calls home. Our students have opportunities to attend concerts, dance recitals, theatrical performances, and visit the marvelous galleries and museums throughout the area, while also taking advantage of our proximity to New York City and Boston. In addition, students and professors from the nearby colleges and universities have enriched our arts classroom experience through lectures, workshops, and demonstrations on our campus.

With the exception of AP Music Theory, Honors Chamber Singers, and AP Studio Art, courses in the Visual and Performing Arts Department are one trimester in length.

Note: Studio art and photography courses do not use textbooks, but they do require a material fee for classroom supplies. Specific class fees are included in the individual course descriptions.

7601 ACTING I

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course introduces students to acting techniques used to craft a stage performance. The course begins with an introduction to improvisation and theater vocabulary before moving on to scene work. Students learn how to apply the Stanislavski system and Meisner technique to embody characters in monologues and scenes. Viola Spolin- and Keith Johnstone-based improvisation is used to teach spontaneity and imaginative thinking. Scene selection is drawn from modern and contemporary American Realist theater. Along with their scene work, students explore the social and historical forces that produced these works.

7602 ACTING II

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: 7601 or departmental approval

This course provides students with further technique to hone their craft as actors. Building on the work in Acting I, students will apply their knowledge of character analysis and blocking to the staging of short plays. Students will also explore theater as a tool for social justice and create an original piece on the topic of their choosing. The course is individualized to address particular needs of students, and scene selections are made in order to address areas where students need to be challenged.

7623 PLAYWRITING AND SCREENWRITING

SINGLE TRIMESTER

This course is an introduction to dramatic composition. Students enrolled in this course will learn about dramatic structure and character development and will become proficient at writing dialogue for the stage and screen. As they imagine new characters and develop stories for performance, students will learn to trust their writer's voice and become confident dramatists and storytellers. A respectful and generous creative exchange will be promoted in the classroom for students to receive the critical feedback needed to enrich their work.

7734 TELLER CHORUS

SINGLE TRIMESTER

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

No experience required!

In Teller Chorus, students enjoy creating community, developing their voices and musicianship, and engaging in the joys and challenges that attend the art of singing. Students learn the fundamentals of vocal ensemble performance, develop music literacy skills, improve vocal technique, and study a diverse repertoire of choral music from modern, popular, classical, and world-music traditions. Students share their work in a variety of formal and informal concerts and events including the Fall Concert, Holiday Concert, and Spring Concert. Students can take this course multiple times for credit, and Teller Chorus can help prepare motivated singers to audition for Honors Chamber Singers. Teller Chorus is open to all Williston students! No experience necessary! This class meets once a week for 90 minutes in T1 and T3. Enrollment for two trimesters earns one credit.

7731 HONORS CHAMBER SINGERS

YEARLONG COURSE

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Concert Choir, Teller Chorus, Musical Theater, Private Lessons, or other prior experience; Auditions take place in spring or over summer for new students.

Honors Chamber Singers (HCS) is Williston's honors-level auditioned SATB choir. Members enjoy creating community, developing their voices and musicianship, and engaging in the joys and challenges that attend the art of singing. HCS performs music from the past and present, from all over the world. Individual practice and weekly sectional rehearsal outside of class time is required. Additional participation in Teller Chorus is encouraged, and students are expected to audition for the MMEA Western District chorus. Field trips may be offered, and HCS serves as a touring and recruitment ensemble to promote Williston and alumni affairs. Auditions are held each spring for the coming year's ensemble.

7745 INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

YEARLONG ENROLLMENT ENCOURAGED

THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Instrumental Music Ensemble is for wind, brass, percussion, piano, and string students who play at or above the intermediate level. Members enjoy creating community, developing technique and artistry, and engaging in the joys and challenges that attend the art of music. Students learn the fundamentals of instrumental ensemble performance, develop music literacy skills, and gain chamber music experience. The ensemble plays music from the standard classical music repertoire and some light classical music and film scores. Students share their work in a variety of formal and informal concerts and events. This class meets on Thursday evenings from 6:30–8 p.m. Enrollment for two trimesters earns one credit; enrollment for a full year earns two credits.

7750 MUSIC PRODUCTION

SINGLE TRIMESTER

How is music recorded in a studio? How do producers and song writers translate their musical ideas into finished products? What software and equipment do they use? In this course, students explore music production, recording, and song writing through project-based learning with professional grade software in the Digital Music Lab. The course challenges students to complete several projects, and the final project serves as the assessment for the course. Music Production is open to all upper school students. No experience necessary!

7790 AP MUSIC THEORY

YEARLONG COURSE

Prerequisite: Teacher approval required

Students in AP Music Theory explore the written and aural language of music. Through sight singing, ear training, analysis, and composition, students develop advanced musicianship skills and prepare for the AP Music Theory exam. The first half of the year focuses on the fundamentals of music notation and composition, and the second half of the year focuses on applying those skills in analysis and composition projects. Concurrent participation in vocal or instrumental music at Williston is highly encouraged.

7050 STUDIO BASICS

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $25

This introductory course provides basic instruction in a variety of 2D media and art-making concepts. Its units of study and projects use different materials and techniques like drawing, painting, and printmaking to develop their artistic skills, and visual language as a means of self-expression. Students will gain an understanding of how to arrange the Elements of Art to create a variety of effects and to build a composition through the Principles of Design.

7411 SCULPTURE

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $125

This introduction to sculpture course will include a variety of approaches to working "in-the-round." Students will use an array of mediums and techniques while exploring fundamental three-dimensional design concepts. In this course, students will examine the way art is used to express self, narratives, or to interpret the world around them. Students will be introduced to historical and contemporary artists and techniques through the lens of sculpture.

7412 WOODWORKING

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $150

Students explore the fundamentals of woodworking, including safety procedures, tool use, measurement, design, and joinery. Through guided instruction and individual projects, participants will create functional and decorative pieces such as picture frames, small boxes, and serving trays, while learning assembly, sanding, and finishing. This course emphasizes creativity, precision, and craftsmanship, providing students with valuable life skills and an appreciation for the rich tradition of woodworking. No prior experience is required—just curiosity and a willingness to learn!

7130 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $25

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of architectural planning, design, and modelling. During this course, students will bring a residential design to fruition through bubble maps, floor plan drawings, elevation drawings, and a culminating model. Students will consider existing contemporary and historical architecture to find inspiration.

7210 DRAWING

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $25

This course is for students interested in exploring a variety of drawing techniques and artistic concepts. Guided and independent assignments will encourage each student to develop their artistic voice while building upon fundamental skills. Projects will be both observational and expressive, representational and abstract. Students will engage in visual research, dialogue, and art analysis.

7310 PAINTING

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $150

This course starts with overcoming the fear of painting. Through various group and individual projects, students will learn painting techniques in acrylics and oils. Students will work from observation, photographs, and imagination. The course will stress the fundamental methods and materials of painting, emphasizing the appropriate use of tools and materials.

7302 PAINTING II

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: 7310 Painting

Studio fee: $150

For students who wish to continue their exploration of painting, this course is about painting as seeing. The course is designed to build confidence in color and paint application. The focus is to develop in the serious student an articulate language to create a more convincing illusion of space and to increase one's capacity for self-expression through paint. Techniques covered include stretching canvases as well as integrating collage materials and mixed media, if desired. This class runs concurrently with Painting.

7400 CERAMICS

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $125

In this course, students will explore the fundamentals of creating functional pottery on the wheel. Through the creation of cylinders, mugs, bowls, jars (and more!), students will learn finishing techniques for adding handles, applying surface textures and applying glazes. They will find inspiration from historic and contemporary forms to inform their personal artistic expression. Students will develop their ideas through writing, sketching, and throwing pieces on the wheel.

7122 DIGITAL DESIGN: CAD

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $125

This course introduces students to use three-dimensional (3D) modeling software (Fusion) and how to prepare those designs for real world creation with 3D printers, and a CNC machine. Students will research, design, model, and iterate their own designs. Projects include building a 3D model from 2D plans; designing a toy robot, creating a desktop organizer; and researching, designing, and building a solution to a specific design problem of their own choice.

7120 DIGITAL DESIGN: 2D

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $75

This course teaches the use of programs in the Adobe Suite (Photoshop, and Illustrator). Each project has an emphasis on using the principles of design, which enables students understanding in how to present ideas to viewers in a visual language. Each project begins digitally in software and then is finalized physically, with the integration of laser engravers and other methods of physical assembly. Projects include designing a spiral notebook cover which is etched into wood, creating a laser engraved and cut map, and designing and assembling album art for a vinyl record. Students will look at existing designs, designers, and seek ways to develop their own artistic style.

7501 DARKROOM PHOTOGRAPHY

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $150

In this introductory, film-based photography course, students explore traditional analog photographic image-making processes. Using a 35mm SLR camera, students learn to operate manual camera controls in order to gain creative control over their images. Students process black and white negative film in the lab and produce silver gelatin prints in the darkroom. In addition, students develop an understanding of photography as a visual art form and learn the basic principles of composition, lighting, and design through lectures, hands-on demonstrations, in-class exercises, discussions, and group critiques. Projects encourage students to develop their artistic voice and incorporate the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual considerations unique to photographic artists. Film cameras are available to rent for the trimester.

7502 DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $150

An introduction to digital image making, this course introduces students to digital SLR cameras and manual camera controls, inkjet print processes, studio lighting, and the fundamentals of a digital photography workflow. Students will learn to organize their projects and edit their images using Adobe Creative Cloud." Assignments will cover a broad range of concepts, ranging from the technical to the emotional, as students discover how to create dynamic and relevant images. Projects, class discussions, and critiques will expand student knowledge of historical and contemporary art practices and challenge students to explore their unique creative voice. Digital SLR cameras are available for rent for the trimester.

7503 ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Prerequisite: 7501 or 7502 or permission of the instructor

Studio fee: $150

This course expands upon the fundamental techniques learned in Photography 7501 and 7502. Students are given greater control over their project choices and creative process, and strengthen the skills needed to pre-visualize a concept and execute it successfully. Hands-on demonstrations, research, discussions, and critiques encourage students to deepen their commitment to an independent art practice and address the technical, aesthetic, and conceptual considerations unique to photographic artists. Increased emphasis is placed on moving beyond technical proficiency to create stronger, content-aware, and highly personal images. Group and individual critiques support students in navigating the complex process of defining a cohesive body of work. Students participate in the Photographers' Lecture Series and associated workshops and work toward the development of an individual photographic portfolio. Digital cameras are required for the course and are available to rent for the trimester. Additional equipment, including film cameras and lighting equipment, is provided when required.

7511/7512 FILM MAKING I/II

SINGLE TRIMESTER

Studio fee: $150

This is a hands-on, introductory course in digital filmmaking. Students will learn video camera operation and non-linear video editing using Adobe Premiere Pro, while engaging in the complete filmmaking process from start to finish. Instruction covers pre-production planning including storyboarding,

shot types, and camera movements, along with sound capture, lighting techniques, and post-production editing. Through a combination of collaborative and individual projects, students will develop the fundamental technical and creative skills needed to produce well-crafted films and develop their own creative voice. Aesthetic, technical, historical, and conceptual aspects of filmmaking are explored through lectures, hands-on demonstrations, in-class exercises, screenings, and discussions. Camera kits and all necessary equipment are provided.

7190 AP STUDIO ART

TWO TRIMESTER COURSE

Prerequisites: Two visual art classes or permission of the instructor. Students may petition the instructors and Academic Office to take this class a second time for credit. Studio fee: $150

AP Studio Art involves a rigorous curriculum addressing students' "sustained investigation." Students choose a theme and an art style to experiment with throughout the trimester. The class is co-taught by the three visual art teachers to allow students a range of feedback and guidance throughout this process. Students will be expected to submit an AP Studio Art Portfolio to the College Board at the end of the course.

7910 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: VISUAL ARTS (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER
THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Department approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See page 8 for complete description.

7911 HONORS WILLISTON SCHOLARS: PERFORMING ARTS (11, 12)

SINGLE TRIMESTER
THIS COURSE MAY BE TAKEN MULTIPLE TIMES FOR CREDIT.

Prerequisite: Department approval

Williston Scholars courses are honors courses that provide students the opportunity to conduct a trimester-long project in their discipline of interest. See page 8 for complete description.

NOT OFFERED THIS YEAR

- 7506 Photojournalism (10, 11, 12)
- 7624 Theater for Social Justice

EXTRACURRICULAR ARTS

DANCE ENSEMBLE

In this afternoon program option, students have opportunities to choreograph and perform in a variety of dance styles for two major dance productions each year. Dancers take weekly classes in ballet, jazz, and contemporary dance styles, and train with our Director of Sport Performance. The ensemble also studies with local guest artists, as well as nationally known performing artists through the Grum Project Visiting Artist Program.

THE WILLISTON THEATER

The Williston Theater offers opportunities to act or work in a variety of backstage capacities. In the fall trimester, The Williston Theater mounts a production of a non-musical play, classical or contemporary. During the winter trimester, the program mounts a winter musical in collaboration with the dance and music instructors. A section of tech theater is offered each trimester. Students select whether they want to work in the scenic shop or costume shop during the trimester. These sections support the construction of props, scenery, and costumes for theater productions and other performing arts events.

PRIVATE INSTRUCTION

Private instruction in voice and instrumental music is available for additional hourly fees. Regular lessons and practice sessions are expected. Please contact the Music Director for more information.

THE VISUAL ARTS INTENSIVE & MUSIC INTENSIVE PROGRAM

The Visual and Performing Arts Intensive Afternoon Program exists to provide opportunity and support for serious musicians and visual artists. Students in this program are required to participate in the Williston Arts Walk at the end of each trimester. Students in Music Intensive are expected to coordinate weekly private instruction for an additional fee. Arts Intensive has a $30 materials fee.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE

Jazz Ensemble meets in the evenings once a week to rehearse and play jazz repertoire. The group performs in instrumental concerts throughout the year. It is open to musicians with some experience.

WILLISTON FUSION

Williston Fusion is an extracurricular a cappella ensemble open to all students. The group rehearses before and after school throughout the year. Performances include the Holiday Concert, Winter Warmer, pops-style concerts, and festivals with guest artists.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

The Middle School is an important part of the Williston community. We share resources with the Upper School—the theater, library, athletics and arts facilities, and most of the academic buildings—and still maintain a separate identity on campus. The Middle School, which consists of grades seven and eight, has approximately 35 students per grade. With an average class size of 13, Middle School students know each of their teachers and their peers well.

Our dedicated and experienced faculty are much more than traditional teachers. They are compassionate and sincere individuals who constantly strive to have their students excel. Faculty are visible and accessible to the students. Most are advisors; all are involved in numerous ways with students outside of the classroom.

Teachers are concerned with the cognitive development of their students, but teaching never happens in a vacuum; the faculty are aware that the student's social, moral, and physical development are crucial as well. This is why community service plays such an important role in the Middle School curriculum and why collaborative learning happens all the time. Civility. Respect. Acceptance. Concepts like these are constantly reinforced in the Middle School.

Middle School students are encouraged to become self-motivated and dedicated students. Faculty help students succeed by providing them with a foundation of subject-appropriate study skills. Faculty hope that their students appreciate (maybe even love) their particular academic subject. The teachers' enthusiasm is often infectious. Students walk away from each course with a solid foundation in the subject and the skills necessary to take the lessons learned in the Middle School and apply them in the Upper School and beyond.

Learning, of course, is not limited to the classroom. Through our relationships with the Five Colleges in our local community, we can provide our students with field trips, community service opportunities, and visiting speakers that enhance and enrich our academic program. These opportunities and experiences help our students truly understand that learning happens everywhere.

Each student is assigned to an advisor who monitors the student's academic progress and discusses pertinent social issues. Advisory groups meet regularly through the course of the year to plan community service projects, discuss school-wide issues, and periodically define, review, and redefine academic goals.

The Middle School is a place where adolescents are challenged. The program is demanding, but not overwhelming. Students are amazed at what they can accomplish at Williston. They will also find the experience rewarding and fun.

Each student's course of study includes English, History and Global Studies, Language (French, Latin, Spanish), Mathematics, Science, Visual and Performing Arts, and Health (eighth grade). Brief outlines of each of the required courses follow.

YEARLONG COURSES

ENGLISH

2000 ENGLISH 7
In this course, students explore and strengthen the communication skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening, all in a respectful and supportive environment. The development of critical thinking skills is stressed and supported continuously, as students acquire the building blocks for analyzing literature and for communicating their ideas effectively in a wide variety of contexts. The analytical writing process is introduced and practiced throughout the year in response to classroom texts. Students also enjoy many opportunities to work with the material creatively. Students read fiction, nonfiction, poetry, drama, and short stories. Foundational grammar and mechanics are formally introduced and practiced, and students continue building their vocabularies through the readings.

2005 ENGLISH 8
This course fosters intellectual and personal growth, academic independence, and personal confidence through a close study of literature, writing, and speaking. Students develop new skills as they read and write with a purpose in mind. These skills are cultivated in analytical and creative writing assignments as well as in class discussions based on the selected literature. In our analyses we focus on how to write an effective thesis with supporting textual points to develop persuasive critical arguments in essay form. In creative writing assignments, students are responsible for presenting clear and meaningful fiction through point of view, dialogue, narration, and description.

LANGUAGE

Language courses emphasize mastery of grammar and vocabulary while incorporating opportunities to further students' cultural literacy. Middle Schoolers' language sequences combine some Middle School-only sections (1A or 1B) with Upper School sections. This combination in each language may change from year to year based on the needs of the students.

5101 INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH
This introductory French class is designed for students who are new to language learning. It focuses on building curiosity and confidence as students explore the basics of French language and culture. Through engaging activities like games, songs, and stories, students will develop an ear for French sounds, learn simple vocabulary, and understand the basics of how the language works.

5110 FRENCH I
Students build a foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the French language. Emphasis is placed upon mastery of the French sound system, basic vocabulary, and fundamental grammar concepts in the present tense.

5710 LATIN I
This introductory course gives students a solid grounding in the fundamental elements of Latin. Emphasis is placed on learning vocabulary and building translation skills. Students strengthen English vocabulary and language skills through close examination of Latin words and syntax. Roman culture and history are explored through hands-on, language-based projects.

5720 LATIN II
Prerequisite: Latin I

Students continue the study of Latin vocabulary, grammar, syntax, culture, and history begun in Latin I. Emphasis is placed on reading and comprehension skills, in addition to cultural topics.

5725 HONORS LATIN II
Prerequisite: Latin I and departmental approval

An honors section is offered as an enriched version of the standard Latin II program in which the demands of the course dramatically increase. Middle School students who are approved for the honors section will be expected to complete the same homework assignments and take the same tests as the Upper School students in this cross-graded course.

5501 INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH
This introductory Spanish class is designed for students who are new to language learning. It focuses on building curiosity and confidence as students explore the basics of Spanish language and culture. Through engaging activities like games, songs, and stories, students will develop an ear for Spanish sounds, learn simple vocabulary, and understand the basics of how Spanish works.

5510 SPANISH I
Students build a foundation in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the Spanish language. Stress is placed upon proficiency in the Spanish sound system, basic vocabulary, and fundamental grammar concepts.

HISTORY & GLOBAL STUDIES

6000 GEOGRAPHY 7

Students in this course develop a greater awareness and appreciation for the scope of physical and human geography through in-depth investigations of issues affecting different regions of the world. Throughout the year, students build their study and writing skills, work on creative projects, and orally present information related to the topics studied. Using the skills developed in trimester one and two, students in trimester three will explore local history, using themes from the year to investigate a topic of their choice. Students will conduct research, visit archives, write a research paper, and give a public presentation.

6005 CIVICS 8

This course introduces students to the concept of citizenship in our society and the responsibilities associated with it. To become informed citizens, students will study the historical roots of America's constitutional system and determine how those constitutional principles are expressed locally and nationally. The course utilizes curriculum from *We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution*. The goal of this program is to provide students with the tools to participate competently and responsibly in the public sphere. In the spring, students will build on their foundation of constitutional knowledge to write a mini research paper based on a topic of their choice. Enhancing activities include debates, a mock trial, a simulated congressional hearing, and field trips to the local courthouse, the State House, and Washington, D.C.

SCIENCE

4000 LIFE SCIENCE 7

In a life science context, students practice scientific methods of thinking through observation, data collection, and interpretation. Students join with scientists from Harvard Forest by collecting data from campus trees in a long-term ecological research project documenting the length in the growing season in relation to climate change. The school garden acts as a living laboratory in which students encounter the cycles of life in an array of organisms from every classification group: plants, animals, fungi, protists, and bacteria. Students establish a traditional foundation in life science concepts while learning to conduct their own investigative research and exploring current issues in our world today. The classroom aims to be alive with student interactions as well as with a variety of plants and animals for observation and study. Students participate in several field trips that take advantage of the wealth of resources within the Five College area. All students participate in the Science Fair, which affords them the opportunity to investigate a life science topic of their choice.

4005 PHYSICAL SCIENCE 8

In eighth grade physical science, we combine academic rigor and challenging topics with hands-on learning and fun. The focus is always on process and how the main ideas of science tie together across disciplines. The course is divided into three main parts, including an introduction to chemistry, which involves students in learning about molecular structures by building molecular models. Discussions about the nature of energy and heat are tied to what we learn about molecules with experiments on phase changes and combustion. This course also includes a section on weather, climate, and the hydrologic cycle on earth. In this section we use what we learned about energy and phase changes to understand how the Earth's cycles work and how water moves around the planet. We will come to understand climate change and will address many of the key themes surrounding it. The third main component of this course is the Science Fair project: students choose a physical phenomenon to investigate through experiments. This aspect of the class encourages and develops an understanding of the scientific method and builds the student's confidence in lab skills and procedures.

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

Pre-Algebra, Algebra Standard, and Algebra Honors are offered. Some seventh and eighth graders will take Geometry or Algebra 2 if they have completed the prerequisite courses. The goal of the mathematics program is to prepare students for future mathematics & computer science courses while providing a variety of strategies for reading, learning, and studying mathematics.

3000 PRE-ALGEBRA

This course seeks to solidify and extend basic number concepts and to prepare students for Algebra I. Topics will include work with integers, decimals, fractions, equation and inequality solving, ratio, proportion and percent, and graphing on the coordinate plane. Emphasis will be placed on the application of knowledge through word problems and projects.

3100 ALGEBRA I

The eighth grade Algebra I course seeks to build an algebraic foundation for students so that they are prepared to proceed to more advanced mathematics courses. Topics will include work with integers, writing and solving multi-step equations and inequalities, graphing linear equations and inequalities, proportion and percent equations, graphing and solving systems of equations and inequalities, properties of exponents, and an introduction to quadratics. Emphasis will be placed on the application of knowledge through problem-solving and writing.

3105 HONORS ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation

The Honors Algebra I course is offered to seventh and eighth grade students who learn at a faster pace, are better able to handle abstract reasoning, and are ready to take more responsibility and initiative for their own learning. The topics include all of the standard Algebra 1 concepts as well as an in-depth study of quadratics. Emphasis will be placed on the application of knowledge through problem-solving and writing.

TRIMESTER COURSES

STEM

3800 STEM FOUNDATIONS 7

Students will study a variety of concepts in technology and engineering that will support and enhance their work in the sciences and math. Technical topics will include programming, design challenges, and robotics. Students will also consider technology's impact on themselves, their community, and society at large.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

7003 MUSIC 7

Students in Music 7 develop and explore musicianship through hands-on, project-based learning. Music 7 includes experiences in music literacy, rhythmic improvisation and composition, hand chimes, ukulele basics, songwriting, and Garage Band.

7002 ART 7

In Grade 7 Art, we explore a variety of 2-D and 3-D techniques, materials and subjects. Students start with learning the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while learning how to implement them. This course focuses on self-reflective skills and logical, process-driven decision making in a low-pressure environment. Trial and error exercises in both wet and dry media will result in success with this introductory course.

7012 ART 8

This 8th grade art class builds on the foundational skills introduced in 7th grade, including observation, composition, and basic techniques across a range of media. Students deepen their understanding of drawing, painting, and design while developing greater independence, persistence, and creative problem-solving. Emphasis is placed on experimentation, reflection, and beginning to articulate a personal artistic voice.

EIGHTH GRADE THEATER PROJECT

In the spring, the entire eighth grade class embarks on bringing a full-length production of a one-act play to life. Students participate as actors, set designers, or costume designers. Class time will be spent exploring the play and characters, rehearsing independently and with teacher supervision, and designing and building sets and costumes. This will all happen in a supportive environment conducive to theatrical risk-taking. As part of the Eighth Grade Theater Project, students agree to participate wholeheartedly regardless of what position or role they are given. The project culminates in a fully staged performance for family, friends, and the Williston community.

HEALTH

7014 HEALTH 8

This course exposes students to issues that affect their physical, intellectual, social, and emotional well-being. Topics covered include mental health, social health, nutrition, physical fitness, human sexuality, and substance abuse. Classes are lecture and discussion based. The goal of this course is to equip students to make informed, well-thought-out decisions about issues that affect their health in our increasingly complex society.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR MUSIC

Students can participate in one of the following musical ensembles that rehearse during the evening: Jazz Ensemble, Instrumental Ensemble, and Teller Chorus.