



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

IB English 11 and 12 HL

Prerequisite: Honors Comp/Lit 9 & 10, IB students only

This two-year high level Language A1 course provides an excellent opportunity for students to expand their reading, writing, thinking, and speaking skills through reading both familiar and unfamiliar texts, writing expository and creative papers, speaking formally and informally for a variety of audiences and ultimately thinking critically, which they must perform successfully and consistently to succeed in our ever-changing world. Since the IB internal and external assessments focus upon the written and oral interpretation and analysis of texts, students will learn, practice, and perform exercises, and ultimately the assessments, to demonstrate their abilities to connect the text, tear apart the text, and to understand what meanings the text can have to his/her self as well as others around the world.

Because of the texts selected, the students will have a variety of opportunities to compare, contrast, investigate, and explore literary works, their authors, the corresponding genres, the cultures, customs, and belief systems of those in Ancient Greece, South America, Africa, India, England and Europe. The universality of the themes will minimize nationalistic views, and the teacher will emphasize the human condition that supersedes cultural differences. Many of these works have been selected with cross-curricular connections in mind. Students will have the opportunity to connect to other course work including TOK, A2 (Spanish), and the Studies of the Americas all in junior year. This interaction of courses can serve as a model of empathy and understanding, a key component of international education.

IB French 11 HL or SL

Prerequisite: Honors I & II, IB students only

This class will be a continuation of the Honors French I and II classes. Students will be completing the study of the language and commencing a more in-depth application of the skills and language that they have learned over the last few years. This class will focus on the four basic skills of French: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students will also begin to prepare for the IB test through a study of real-life texts and how those texts will be used on the IB test. The class will also begin focusing on learning a language for life and how students can improve upon their mastery of the language after high school and beyond as they become a part of their changing world. The class will be conducted only in French.

IB French 12 HL or SL

Prerequisite: Honors I & II, IB French 11, IB students only

This class will focus exclusively on the upper level French skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The class will no longer study French as a language but will focus on the subtle nature and nuances of language in everyday use in order to express and state opinions and thoughts through reading, writing, listening and speaking. We will also have a greater focus on preparing students for their IB tests and for a life full of language learning beyond high school. This class will be conducted only in French.

IB Spanish 11 HL or SL

Prerequisite: Honors I and II, IB students only

These classes will be a continuation of Honors Spanish I and II. Students will be completing the study of the language and commencing a more in-depth application of the skills and language that they have learned over the last few years. This class will focus on the four basic skills of language: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students will also begin to prepare for the IB Papers (texts) through a study of real-life texts and how those texts will be used on the IB exams. The class will also begin focusing on learning a language for life and how students can improve upon their mastery of the language after high school and beyond as they become a part of the ever-changing global community. This class will be conducted primarily in the target language. Much outside reading and practice will be required, as well as a true commitment to acquiring the language.

IB Spanish 12 HL or SL

Prerequisite: Honors I and II, IB Spanish 11, IB students only

These classes will focus exclusively on upper Spanish skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. The classes will not exclusively study the target language, but will also focus on the subtle nature and nuances of language in everyday use in order to express and state opinions and thoughts through reading, writing, listening and speaking. We will also have a greater focus on preparing students for their IB Papers I, II and III. This practice will help students successfully pass their IB exams and prepare for a life full of language learning beyond high school. These classes will be conducted only in the target language. Much outside practice and reading will be necessary for success, as well as a true commitment to acquiring the language.

History of the Americas HL

Prerequisite: US Studies, IB students only

This course will be offered as a two year course over the 11th and 12th grade years. Year one will be the regional study of Canada, the United States, and Central and South America from the 18th Century to the present. Year two will include the prescribed subjects of the Cold War, The Rise and Rule of Single Party States, Causes and Practices of War, and the Rise and Fall of Communism. This course will allow students to think critically about knowledge learned with an emphasis on cross cultural influences and interactions between the nations.

IB Biology HL

Prerequisite: Honors Geophysical Science, Honors Biology, IB students only

This course, taught over a 2 year period, is designed for the student with an interest in science. The objective of the course is to provide students with a limited body of facts and, at the same time, broad understanding of the field of biology. This course will provide academic rigor for the student who is both intellectually curious and motivated to use his or her insight and creativity to design and perform higher level laboratory activities. The syllabus is focused around four central themes: structure and function, universality versus diversity, equilibrium within systems, and evolution. Course topics include chemistry of life, cells, genetics, ecology, plant science, human physiology, and evolution.

IB Chemistry SL

Prerequisite: Honors Geophysical Science, Honors Biology, IB students only

IB Chemistry is a modern science course with an emphasis on developing an understanding of basic chemical principles and laboratory methods. The main theme of the course is the properties and reactions of materials at the atomic level with an emphasis on practical work to illuminate and explore the topics. The objectives of the course are to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand their world, to prepare them for future higher science courses and to prepare for success on IB examinations.

Offered at the standard level, Chemistry SL is designed to meet the needs of those who want to study science at a university and those who will complete their study of science at the end of the course. This course will be spread over two years. Course topics include: stoichiometry, atomic theory, periodicity, bonding, states of matter, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, and organic chemistry. Students must also complete work in two of the following options: Higher Physical Organic Chemistry, Environmental Chemistry, or Fuels and Energy.

IB Mathematical Studies SL

Prerequisite: Math 3 and AP Statistics (junior year), IB students only

IB Mathematical Studies is offered at the Standard Level for students anticipating a future of limited math instruction past the Diploma Program. This course would appeal to students majoring in non math-based degrees (business, social sciences, arts, etc.) at the collegiate level. Practical application and preparation for a technological society are emphasized throughout this course using diverse real-life experiences involving mathematics. Topics include: Sets, Logic and Probability, Statistics, Functions, Geometry and Trigonometry, Financial mathematics, and the IB Project due in mid-November.

IB Mathematics SL

Prerequisites: Pre-calculus and AP Calculus AB (junior year), IB students only

IB Mathematics SL is offered at the Standard Level for students needing a reasonable level of mathematics in preparation for future math instruction past the Diploma Program. This course would appeal to students majoring in math-based degrees (chemistry, economics, non-social sciences, etc.) at the collegiate level, but not wishing to take mathematics at the HL while in the Program. This is a demanding course containing a wide range of mathematical topics including Functions and Equations, Circular Functions and Trigonometry, Matrices, Vectors, Statistics and Probability, and Calculus. The junior year of this course will be AP Calculus AB.

IB Mathematics HL

Prerequisites: Pre-calculus and AP Calculus BC (junior year), IB students only

IB Mathematics HL is offered at the Higher Level for students needing a rigorous level of mathematics in preparation for future math instruction past the Diploma Program. This course would appeal to students majoring in math-based degrees (chemistry, economics, non-social sciences, etc.) at the collegiate level, and wishing to take mathematics at the HL level while in the Program. This is a very demanding course containing a wide range of mathematical topics, including: Functions and Equations, Circular Functions and Trigonometry, Matrices, Vectors, Induction, Statistics and Probability, and Calculus. The junior year of this course will be AP Calculus BC.

IB Visual Arts HL or SL

Prerequisite: Art 1 & 2, juniors & seniors only, open to all students

This class, although a part of the IB program is open and available to any student who wishes to pursue art at a higher level, both creatively and mentally. It has a strong emphasis on the research workbook (Journal) and studio work with well-established standards and requirements. This is a great class for anyone who is considering art as either a major or minor in college. Below is the official description of the IB Art class.

The Visual Arts, Higher Level (HL) and Standard Level Option A (SLA) course will focus on the needs and goals of the IB student who has significant creative and imaginative abilities, and who wishes to focus his or her efforts more on the practical aspects of art with an emphasis on studio work. The Higher Level student in Visual Arts specializes in visual arts and may be interested in pursuing the visual arts at college or university level. The HL student in Visual Arts will devote 168 hours to studio work with an additional 72 hours dedicated to the Research Workbook—a body of work, visual and written, consisting of independent critical research and analysis of their own work and of the visual expressions of at least one other culture than their own. The SLA students in Visual Arts will support and supplement their studio work with a body of work (the RWB) in independent critical research and analysis in the student culture and others. The ratio of studio work to research and analysis work hours in SLA will be 105:45.

IB Business and Management SL

Prerequisite: Open to all students

The IBO Business and Management program is designed to give an understanding of business principles, practices, and skills. Emphasis is also placed on understanding technical innovation and day-to-day business functions of marketing, human resource management, and finance. Applied to the Business and Management program, it necessitates a style of teaching and learning based on integrating and linking the various modules to give a holistic overview by the end of the course. IB Business and Management SL is a rigorous and critical study of the ways in which individuals and groups interact in a dynamic business environment. We will explore how and why organizations are formed, roles of individuals and groups, and current challenges organizations face from social and technological changes.

IB Music HL or SL

Prerequisite: Permission from instructor and prior experience playing an instrument or singing in an organized performance ensemble. Open to all students.

The aims of the IB Music program are to:

1. Give students the opportunity to explore and enjoy the diversity of music throughout the world.
2. Encourage students to develop perpetual skills through a breadth of musical experiences, where they will learn to recognize, speculate, analyze, identify, discriminate, and hypothesize in relation to music.
3. Enable students to creatively develop their knowledge, abilities and understanding through performance and composition.
4. Assist students to fully develop their potential as musicians both personally and collaboratively, in whatever capacity.

Objectives:

1. Development of their performance skills through solo music making.
2. Development of their compositional skills through exploration and investigation of musical elements.
3. Use of appropriate musical language and terminology to describe and reflect their critical understanding of music.

4. Development of perceptual skills in response to music.
5. Knowledge and understanding of music in relation to time and place.

Students must be concurrently enrolled in a performance ensemble in order to complete all requirements of the course.

IB Theater HL or SL

Prerequisite: Junior or senior with teacher approval; both levels taught; open to all students

The aims of the program in Theater Arts are to help students understand the nature of the theater; to understand it by making it as well as by studying it; to understand it not only with their minds but with their senses, their bodies and their emotions; to understand the forms it takes in cultures other than their own; and through this understanding to better understand themselves, their society and their world.

Having completed the course at Higher Level or Standard Level, a student will be expected to have demonstrated:

1. A knowledge of the major developments and techniques in the theatrical history of more than one culture.
2. An ability to interpret and illuminate play scripts and other theatrical texts analytically and imaginatively.
3. An understanding of the art of the stage and of criticism in relation to it.
4. An ability to perform before an audience, and to demonstrate understanding of, and some skill in, acting techniques.
5. The acquisition of sufficient technical skill to produce satisfactory work in at least one of the theatrical arts or crafts.
6. An understanding of the processes of theatrical production.
7. An ability to research imaginatively, selectively and with persistence.

Theory of Knowledge

Prerequisite: IB students only

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) program is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Program. It challenges students and their teacher to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and areas of knowledge and to consider the role which knowledge plays in a global society. It encourages students to become aware of themselves as thinkers, to become aware of the complexity of knowledge, and to recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected world.