



The Northwest Academy Daytime Electives 2010 - 2011

Block 1A Monday & Wednesday 9:25 - 10:25 AM and every other Friday 9:00 - 10:10 AM			
Digital Art	Nathan Lucas	High Interest	.50
The class will explore image creation and manipulation. We will use a variety of software as we work with both the still and the moving image. Fee= \$35/year			Lab
Playwriting & Directing	David Berkson	High Interest	.50
Are you ready to take the plunge as a theatre artist? Learn the art of play making from the other side of the stage. Students will learn the art of plotting, character development, dialogue, comedy and dramatic tension as you write your own one act play. Hone and develop your leadership skills through directing a (different) one act play and learn the delicate art of working with actors while staying true to your own vision. Open to all high school students. Those enrolled in the class will also have a chance to perform if they so choose.			
World History	Julie Ellington	EH 2	.50
This course is designed to inspire students by equipping them with the tools necessary to participate in historical methodology, generally reserved for professional historians. Students will not memorize dates and events in a contextual vacuum, but rather learn to explore history as a network of interrelated people, places, events and movements. Students will be challenged to analyze arguments, compare primary evidence, test conclusions, (re)evaluate materials, and propose well-supported hypotheses. Syllabus surveys the global stage from 3100 B.C.E. to 1650 C.E. (Fall Semester) and from 1650 to the present (Spring Semester) and includes a strong component of geography.			
Block 2A Monday & Wednesday 10:50 - 12:10 PM and every other Friday 10:15 - 11:25 AM			
Pre-Calculus	TBD	Algebra 2 & Geometry	.50
This course is designed to give students the skills they need to succeed in Calculus. The course may also give students the skills they need to test out of a required college algebra course or make such a course much easier. First semester focuses on advanced algebra techniques and graphing techniques. Second semester focuses on trigonometry, including trig identities. Prerequisites: A grade of 4- or higher in Algebra 2 or instructor permission.			
Advanced Bio	Andy Davis	Biology, Chemistry & Physics	.50
In this course we'll examine how the biotic composition of ecosystems is directly related to the non-living factors that define them. We'll study evolution and the role it plays in animal adaptations and behaviors. Through investigating many different plants and animals we'll gain an appreciation for the diversity of life on the planet, and we'll learn how conservation biology has changed in response to new challenges and developments in recent years. Through the lens of ecology and evolution, this course will introduce you to many concepts that will prepare you for college level biology courses.			
B&W Photography (Beg & Intermediate)	Rachael Torchia	High Interest	.50
This course will cover the use of B&W darkroom techniques to create fine art prints. We will go beyond traditional photographic process to incorporate alternative processes and hand-built or manipulated cameras into our toolbox. Themes and methods from contemporary and historical photography will be explored through slide lectures and photographer studies. Lab Fee= \$150/year			
Digital Art	Nathan Lucas	High Interest	.50
The class will explore image creation and manipulation. We will use a variety of software as we work with both the still and the moving image. Lab Fee= \$35/year			
Dance	Erin Shannon	High Interest	.50
This is a general dance class for high school students with any level of experience in the areas of modern dance, jazz, ballet, hip-hop, world dance, improvisation, and choreography. Students will study principles of movement and composition through technical skill acquisition and development, creativity and self-expression, and will offer experiences in individual and group work, both in and out of the classroom. Students will be involved in both formal and informal performances throughout the year.			
Block 3A Monday & Wednesday 1:00 - 2:20 PM and every other Friday 1:20 PM - 2:30 PM			
Publications	Brian Christopher	High Interest	.50
This class will be responsible for producing <i>Iris</i> (the NWA literary magazine) and the 2009-2010 NWA high school yearbook, as well as other smaller projects. We will focus extensively on all aspects of both graphic design and layout, using Photoshop, Illustrator, and InDesign. We will also acquire the written and visual content for <i>Iris</i> and the yearbook, as well as designing and laying out these publications.			
Psychology	Jada Pierce	Consent of Instructor	.50
Ever wonder why people act the way they do, think the way they do, believe, disbelieve, dream, work, learn, or remain apathetic and unmotivated? This class is designed for students who are interested in studying human behavior and states of consciousness through a foundational understanding of Psychology. Students will study various theories of consciousness, memory, learning, motivation, personality, and social relations through reading, discussing and writing about texts by prominent psychologists such as Sigmund Freud, Jean Piaget, Carl Jung, B.F. Skinner, Kurt Lewin, and others. We will also research some contemporary topics in psychology and view a few relevant, contemporary films. The class could serve as an interesting follow-up for students who have already taken Philosophy, as this course offers a psychological perspective on some of the same topics, though Philosophy is not a prerequisite. This course runs in Spring 2011. Sign Up at Arena Scheduling 6/18			
Block 4A Monday & Wednesday 2:25 - 3:45 PM		Every other Friday 2:25 PM -	
Digital Photography	Nathan Lucas	High Interest	.50
Students will explore photography as a tool for personal expression. The class will look at the basic principals of photography, and how digital technology can give artists more options for make and sharing their work.			



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Block 1B Tuesday & Thursday 9:25 - 10:25 AM and every other Friday 9:00 - 10:10 AM			
Yoga	Amy Sibal	High Interest	.50
Come stretch and strengthen. Find peace in your hectic day while re-energizing your body.			
Drawing	Sean Cain	High Interest	.50
Drawing is the foundation for students pursuing any art form. Students taking the Drawing course will learn fundamental drawing skills. The course begins with lessons designed to develop the student's ability to draw from sight. As the course progresses other concerns related to design and composition are introduced such as perception of value and the use of value in compositions, understanding and using color, and linear perspective. This class caps at 10 students.			
Block 2B Tuesday & Thursday 10:50 - 12:10 PM and every other Friday 10:15 - 11:25 AM			
Digital Photography	Nathan Lucas	High Interest	.50
Students will explore photography as a tool for personal expression. The class will look at the basic principals of photography, and how digital technology can give artists more options for making and sharing their work. \$75 lab fee/year			
Tai Chi	David Wagstaff	High Interest	.50
This course is dedicated to the meditative movement of Tai Chi. This ancient art develops balance, vitality, and serenity. We will also choreograph a Tai Chi dance and perform it in Esprit.			
Block 3B Tuesday & Thursday 1:00 - 2:20 PM and every other Friday 1:20 PM - 2:30 PM			
Intro to Philosophy	Brian Christopher	High Interest	.50
A little like Speech and Debate . . . on the Edge. The class would focus on both spontaneous and pre-assigned, researched topics, and would involve both individual and team discussion. (Sample topics: Does evil exist? What happens after we die? Can an object have consciousness? Do animals have souls?) There will be in-class analysis of classic philosophers' takes on the various topics, and the focus of the class would be on expanding students' abilities to consider and discuss deep concepts. The main purpose of the class would be to help create students (and eventually adults) with the ability to participate in deeply intellectual and philosophical discussions (an all too rare skill these days).			
B&W Photography – Int/Adv	Heidi Kirkpatrick	Beg Photo or Consent of Instructor	.50
Building upon the basic skills learned in Beginning Photography, this class will explore, in greater depth, the fine points of film exposure and development and the making of fine prints in the darkroom. The techniques learned in class will be used to produce expressive pictures and prints that reflect the students' personal style and vision. This class will also learn through visual presentations, shooting field trips and gallery visits. This class caps at 10 students. \$150 lab fee/year			
Block 4B Tuesday & Thursday 2:25 - 3:45 PM and every other Friday 2:25 PM - 3:45 PM			
Calculus	Amy Sibal	Pre-Calculus	.50
Students in this course will study limits and derivative calculus during the first semester, and integral calculus during the second semester.			
Painting	Sean Cain	Drawing or Consent of Instructor	.50
The primary goal of this class is to teach students how to paint what they see. The secondary goal is to provide students with a sense of the variety of technical approaches to painting employed throughout history. The primary painting media will be oil paint, but students will also work with egg tempera, fresco, gouache, and acrylic. This class caps at 10 students.			
Writing on the Edge	Brian Christopher	High Interest	.50
Find out how exploring new directions and taking risks as a writer can lead you to amazing places you probably never imagined you could go. Whether you are interested in fiction, non-fiction, poetry, songwriting, or none of the above, you will likely find that writing in this class is also more fun and challenging than you thought possible. And as you master the acrobatics and art of writing on the edge, you might even discover something extraordinary about yourself that has nothing to do with writing at all.			