

## Course Descriptions for PHS Credit Assistance Electives

### **African American History**

Over the course of U.S. history, how have African Americans helped shaped American culture? This African American History course answers that question by tracing the accomplishments and obstacles of African Americans beginning with the slave trade on up to the modern Civil Rights movement. What was it like during slavery, or after emancipation, or during the years of discrimination under Jim Crow? Who were some of the main figures who have shaped African American history? In this course, you'll learn about the political, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors that have influenced African American life, come face to face with individuals who changed the course of history, and explore how the African American story still influences current events today.

### **Animation**

Do you wonder what it would be like to create the next blockbuster animated movie or do you want to make the next big video game? Do you have an eye for drawing, technology, and timing? If so, Animation is the course for you! You will learn how to use animation tools to conceptualize and bring your creations to life. You'll learn the ins and outs of creating 2D and 3D animation, from start to finish. You'll even begin working on our own design portfolio and get hands on experience with creating your own animation projects. Learning about Animation could lead to a thriving career in the growing world of technology and animation.

### **Anthropology I: Uncovering Human Mysteries**

What makes us human? Is it our ability to use language? Is it our abstract thinking skills or our use of tools and technology? In Anthropology 1: Uncovering Human Mysteries you will trace the history of homo sapiens and explore our evolutionary trail. This course offers an anthropological lens to observe our movement from cave dweller to modern human. It sheds light on how we forged our way and developed all of the things that make us human, such as our cultures, languages, and religions. We, as humans in the 21st century, are highly intelligent, innovative people with astounding technological ability—how did we get this way.

### **Archaeology: Detectives of the Past**

The famous Spanish philosopher and writer George Santayana once said, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." We know from studying history how true this statement is, and the age-old field of archaeology helps us to better understand, through discovery and analysis, how ancient civilizations have shaped the modern world. This fascinating course, Archaeology: Detectives of the Past, explores the various techniques, methods, and theories of this field and illustrates how archaeologists conduct their studies. What is it like to uncover precious artifacts? How

are they located and preserved? Find the answer to these questions and more as you learn how ancient discoveries can unlock the secrets of a long and colorful past.

### **Art History 1-2**

In this course, students examine and critically analyze major forms of artistic expression from the past and the present from a variety of cultures. While visual analysis is a fundamental tool of the art historian, art history emphasizes understanding how and why works of art function in context, considering such issues as patronage, gender, and the functions and effects of works of art.

### **Art in World Cultures**

Who do you think is the greatest artist of all time? Maybe Leonardo da Vinci? Michelangelo? Maybe a more modern artist like Claude Monet or Pablo Picasso? Or is it possible that the greatest artist of all time is actually someone whose name has been lost to history? In Art in World Cultures, you'll learn about some of the greatest artists in the world while creating your own art, both on paper and digitally. This course explores basic principles and elements of art and teaches you how to critique different art works art. And along the way, you will get to discover some traditional art forms from various regions of the world including the Americas, Africa, and Oceania.

### **Coding 1a: Introduction to Programming**

Have you ever wanted to create your own web page or wondered how your favorite websites were built? Maybe you want to know more about how computers and technology are affecting the world around us. In Coding 1a: Introduction to Programming, you will explore the role technology plays in our lives as well as study the fundamentals of computer science, review hardware and software, and learn how the internet functions. You will also discover how to create and build your own website using HTML and CSS and learn basic and complex commands and sequences as you become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python Programming. This course also covers data collection methods, access rights, protocols, and security.

### **Game Design 1a: Introduction**

Are you a gamer? Do you enjoy playing video games or coding? Does the idea of creating and designing your own virtual world excite you? If so, this is the course for you! Tap into your creative and technical skills as you learn about the many aspects involved with designing video games. You will learn about video game software and hardware, various gaming platforms, necessary technical skills, troubleshooting and internet safety techniques, and even the history of gaming. And to top it all off, you'll even have the opportunity to create your very own plan for a 2D video game! Turn your hobby into a potential career and go from simply being a player in a virtual world to actually creating one.

## **Health 1: Life Management Skills- .5 of PE Credit**

Imagine the healthiest people you know . . . what's their secret? While some health traits are genetically determined, the truth is we all have the ability to make positive changes in our physical lives. In Health 1: Life Management Skills, you will learn how to promote better health by decreasing stress and finding a fuller vision of your life. Explore different lifestyle choices that can influence your overall health—from positively interacting with others, to choosing quality health care, to making sensible dietary choices. You will have the opportunity to build your own plan for improvement and learn how to create the type of environment that will ensure your overall health, happiness, and well-being.

## **Introduction to Social Media**

Have a Facebook account? What about Twitter? Or Instagram? Whether you've already dipped your toes in the waters of social media or are still standing on the shore wondering what to make of it all, learning how to interact on social media platforms is crucial to surviving and thriving in this age of digital communication. In Introduction to Social Media, you'll learn the ins and outs of such social media platforms as Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, Google+, and more and how to use them for your benefit—personally, academically, and, eventually, professionally. If you thought social media platforms were just a place to keep track of friends and share personal photos, this course will show you how to use these resources in much more powerful ways.

## **Introduction to Women's Studies: A Personal Journey Through Film**

Maybe you grew up watching movies with female characters like Cinderella, Belle, Snow White, or Ariel. Maybe you've wondered why there are stereotypes about women being bad drivers or ignorant about sports. Maybe you want to know about feminism and the women's movement. The Introduction to Women's Studies: A Personal Journey Through Film can help you answer these questions. Though it focuses on the experience of women, it's appropriate for anyone who wants to learn to critically examine films while learning about the history of the women's movement and how gender, race, and social class influence us. Women have earned their right to stand up and be recognized as equal partners and reap the benefits of their hard work. As the anonymous quote goes, "History is Herstory too..

## **Introduction to Philosophy: The Big Picture**

Go on an exciting adventure covering over 2,500 years of history! Along the way, you'll run into some very strange characters, like the dirty barefoot man who hung out on street corners pestering everyone with questions, or that eccentric fellow who climbed inside a stove to think about whether he existed. Despite their odd behavior, these and other philosophers of the Western world are among the world's most brilliant and influential thinkers and originated the fundamental ideas of Western civilization. Introduction to Philosophy: The Big Picture asks some of the same questions these great thinkers pondered, so by the time you've "closed the book" on this course, you will

better understand yourself and the world around you—from atoms to outer space and everything in between.

### **Music Appreciation: The Enjoyment of Listening**

Have you ever heard a piece of music that made you want to get up and dance? Cry your heart out? Sing at the top of your lungs? Whether pop, classical, or anything in between, music provides a powerful way for people to celebrate their humanity and connect with something larger than themselves. Music Appreciation: The Enjoyment of Listening not only will provide a historical perspective on music from the Middle Ages to the 21st century, but it will also teach you the essentials of how to listen and really hear (with a knowledgeable ear) the different music that's all around you. Learning how to truly appreciate sound and melody is the best way to ensure a continued love of this delightful art form.

### **Personal Fitness- .5 of PE Credit**

What does being fit really mean? Is it just based on physical appearance or is it something deeper? Though we strive to be healthy and make sensible choices, it's difficult to know how to achieve this. It's not only about losing weight or lifting a heavy barbell; in Personal Fitness you will learn about body functions, safety, diet, goals, and strategies for longevity. Human beings, in both body and mind, are complex and highly sensitive organisms that need the right attention to physically excel and feel great. Being fit is about living life to the fullest and making the most of what you have—yourself! Explore the world of healthy living and see how real fitness can be achieved through intention, effort, and just the right amount of knowledge.

### **Psychology I: The Road to Self-Discovery**

Have you ever wondered why you do the things you do? Have you asked yourself if self-knowledge is the key to self-improvement? Are you interested in how behavior changes as we age? Psychology can give you the answers! In Personal Psychology I: The Road to Self-Discovery, you will trace the development of personality and behavior from infancy through adulthood. You will come to learn more about perception and consciousness and better understand the role of sensation. Are you ready to explore the world of human behavior? Come explore all that psychology can offer to help you to truly understand the human experience.

### **Psychology II: Living in a Complex World**

Why do you sometimes remember song lyrics but can't remember where you left your phone, your keys, or even your shoes? How does language affect the way we think? Why is your personality so different from (or so similar) your brother's or sister's personality? Personal Psychology II: Living in a Complex World will you to explore what makes you 'you.' Why do some things motivate you more than others? How can you determine your IQ? If you've ever wanted to dive right into the depths of who you are and how you got to be you, jump on board and start your exploration now.

## **Social Problems I : A World in Crisis**

War, crime, poverty, global warming—our world often seems full of dire warnings and predictions. How can we make sense of it all and still dare to step outside each day? Social Problems I: A World in Crisis will explore some of the biggest challenges facing our world today and prepare you to tackle them head-on. You'll learn what led to these social problems, what effects they have on our lives and societies, and what possible solutions exist for solving them. Whether you want to save the world from the next pandemic or better understand the effects of the media on society, this course will help you develop a plan of action.

## **Social Problems II: Crisis, Conflicts & Challenges**

It may seem like we live in a sometimes scary and ever-changing world. Everywhere we look—from the homeless living on the streets, to world-wide health epidemics, to the often negative effects of our global world—problems seem to appear at every corner. In Social Problems II: Crisis, Conflict, and Challenges, you'll explore more of the challenges we face and learn what we can do to reduce the effects of these conflicts and problems. From drug abuse to terrorists to the changing nature of communities in our digital world, we can better face and solve these problems when we have a deeper understanding of their causes and influences on our lives.

## **Sociology I: The Study of Human Relationships**

Human beings are complex creatures; however, when they interact and begin to form relationships and societies, things become even more complicated. Are we more likely to act differently in a group than we will when we're alone? How do we learn how to be "human"? Sometimes it can feel as if there are more questions than answers. Sociology I: The Study of Human Relationships seeks to answer these questions and many more as it explores culture, group behavior, and societal institutions and how they affect human behavior. You'll learn how social beliefs form and how this shapes our lives. How does this happen? Join us and find out.

## **Sociology II: Your Social Life**

Why do people disagree on so many big issues? Where do culture wars come from? Maybe you've wondered this as you've looked through your social media feed or read the latest online article about groups fighting over different social issues. Sociology II: Your Social Life takes a powerful look at how social institutions like families, religion, government, and education shape our world and how collective behavior and social movements can create change. Although the reality of the battles isn't always pretty, gaining a clearer picture of the different sides can help you better understand how our lives are shaped by entertainment, social institutions, and social change.

## **World Geography 1 and 2**

In World Geography studies, students will examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, national, and international scales from the spatial and ecological perspectives of geography of events of the past and present. A significant portion of the course will center around the physical processes that shape patterns in the physical environment; the characteristics of major landforms, climates, and ecosystems and their interrelationships; the political, economic, and social processes that shape cultural patterns of regions; types and patterns of settlement; the distribution and movement of world population; relationships among people, places and environments; and the concept of region. Students will analyze how location affects economic activities in different economic systems throughout the world. Students will identify the processes that influence political divisions of the planet and analyze the different points of view that affect the development of the public policies. Students will compare how components of culture shape the characteristics of regions and analyze the impact of technology and human modifications on the physical environment. Students will use problem-solving and decision-making skills to ask and answer geographic questions.

## **World Religions: Exploring Diversity**

From Taoism, to Islam, to Christianity, religion inevitably affects us all in some way. On one level, religion can help us commune with and honor our spiritual natures, but it can also divide people and create great strife in the world. World Religions: Exploring Diversity will explore the various characteristics of faith and introduce the fundamentals of the major religions, including Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Shintoism, and Taoism. You'll trace how these powerful faiths have influenced cultures over thousands of years and helped to shape the face of humanity. After this course, you'll have a clearer understanding of how religion continues to affect the larger world.