

HIGH SCHOOL ELECTIVES

For high-achieving school students
Grades 8 - 12

THE
BIG RED
GROUP



High School Electives

Academic Success

As in other areas of life, success in academics results from learning and practicing positive habits. This one-semester elective provides practical, hands-on guidance on developing and improving study habits and skills, regardless of a student's level of accomplishment. Academic Success includes five lessons and two course activities in a flexible structure that is adaptable to the needs and circumstances of individual students. The course can also be used for college-level developmental education

African American History

How have African Americans shaped the culture of the United States throughout history? Tracing the accomplishments and obstacles of African Americans from the slave trade through emancipation, and to the modern African diaspora, you will learn about the political, economic, social, religious, and cultural factors that have influenced African American life. In African American History, you'll come face to face with individuals who changed the course of history and learn more about slavery, racism, and the Civil Rights Movement. You will also explore how the history of African Americans influences current events today.

Anthropology 1: 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 anthropologic lens to observe our movement from cave dweller to modern humans. 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?

Anthropology 2: More Human Mysteries Uncovered

How does your culture influence you? Find out how different locations shape various cultures and, in turn, how these cultures shape people's lives around the world – from the jungles of the Amazon to the islands of Indonesia. Anthropology II: More Human Mysteries Uncovered provides a fascinating look at this puzzle of culture. Many of our ancient cultures and languages were shaped by the geographical locations of our ancestors, and in this course, you will begin to visualize new ideas about how ancient cultures flourished through examining their views on life, death, art, and survival. In looking back and learning about cultures through the ages, we are better equipped to understand the world around us today.

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 artefacts? 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 colourful past.

Art History & Appreciation

This course explores the main concepts of art, expression, and creativity as it helps students answer questions such as what is art; what is creativity; and how and why people respond to art. It covers essential design principles such as emphasis, balance, and unity. Units include Art, History, and Culture; Western and World Art Appreciation; and Art and the Modern World.

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 artworks 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. Note: This course has 12 units and is recommended to be taught over 2 semesters, but can be accelerated to be completed within a single semester if desired.

Artificial Intelligence

This one-semester course is focused on the history, applications, and innovations of artificial intelligence. Students will learn about intelligence agents, problem-solving using search algorithms, knowledge representation, and reasoning in artificial intelligence. Students will also learn about the basic concepts of machine learning and natural language processing (NLP). Students will also learn about expert systems, computer vision and robotics. This 12-lesson course also covers ethics and safety related to artificial intelligence. Online discussions and course activities require students to develop and apply critical thinking skills, while the included games appeal to a variety of learning styles and keep students engaged.

Creative Writing

Literature is an important form of art that allows us to give voice to our emotions, create imaginary worlds, express ideas, and escape the confines of reality. Explore the writing process and find inspiration to build a story of your own, and learn literary techniques to create hybrid forms of poetry and prose. Let's turn your creative thoughts and ideas into pieces of creative writing.

Creative Writing: Unleashing the Core of Your Imagination

Writing can change the world. Think about the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, and Lincoln's 2nd In-Augural Address. How have these writings shaped our country and the future? While you learn how to unleash the core of your imagination to develop your own creative writing, you'll also explore creative writing through foundational literary works from the 18th to 20th century of Colonialism to American Gothic to Modernism, and everything in between, while evaluating original writings and their interpretations.

Gothic Literature: Monster Stories

It was a dark and stormy night, and the vampires, ghouls, and undead were on the prowl... Gothic Literature is riddled with the spooky, but did you know that this genre is so much more than a scary form of entertainment? In Gothic Literature, you'll learn about how some of the world's greatest authors from the 19th century through today used Gothic elements to tackle issues that needed serious attention: the class system, gender norms, racism, social injustice, and more! Grab your monster gear and explore why Gothic literature has retained its appeal even with today's audiences.

History of the Holocaust

"Never shall I forget that night, the first night in camp, which has turned my life into one long night, seven times cursed and seven times sealed." Elie Wiesel, a Holocaust survivor, wrote these words about his experiences in a Nazi concentration camp. History of the Holocaust will take you through the harrowing details of anti-Semitism, the power of the Nazi party, the persecution of European Jews and other groups, and the tremendous aftermath for everyone involved in World War II. You'll explore the causes of the Holocaust, the experiences of Jews and other individuals during this time, and what has been done to combat genocide since WWII. "For the dead and the living, we must bear witness." Note: This course has 10 units and is recommended to be taught over 2 semesters, but can be accelerated to be completed within a single semester if desired

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. Note: This course has 8 units and is recommended to be taught over a single semester

Mythology and Folklore: Legendary Tales

Since the beginning of time, people have gathered around fires to tell stories of angry gods, harrowing journeys, cunning animals, horrible beasts, and the mighty heroes who vanquished them. Mythology and folklore have provided a way for these colourful stories to spring to life for thousands of years and helped humans make sense of the world. Explore how these compelling tales continue to shape society even today. Note: This course has 8 units and is recommended to be taught over a single semester

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 behaviour, 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.

Reading and Writing for Purpose

This course introduces useful, real-world information by having students learn to read legal, insurance, employment, and vehicle-related documents. Furthermore, students will explore media bias, trends in journalism, word structures, and research strategies. To entrench real-world applications, students will learn how to critically read, identify good sources of information, and create an outline, making this course an asset to building life and study skills.

Structure of Writing

This semester-long course focuses on building good sentences. Students will learn how to put words, phrases, and clauses together and how to punctuate correctly. They will start using sentences in short compositions. As an extra bonus, students will add some new words to their vocabulary, and they will practice spelling difficult words. Near the end of the course, students are to submit a book report. Early in the course, encourage students to start looking for the books they want to read for the book report. They might also preview the introduction to that lesson so they know what will be expected.

The Lord of the Rings: An Exploration of the Films and Their Literary Influences

Hobbits, Orcs, wizards, dashing knights, and powerful elves are all part of the magic created in J.R.R. Tolkien's famously epic tale, *The Lord of the Rings*. For years, the vivid characters within this beloved story could exist only in the readers' minds—until it was adapted into a movie that allowed fans to finally see, through the eyes of Hollywood magic and brilliant technology, the manifestation of these characters onscreen. What does it take to transport these well-known images like Gollum and the Shire from dusty pages to the giant screen?

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. *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."

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 honour 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. Note: This course has 10 units and is recommended to be taught over 2 semesters, but can be accelerated to be completed within a single semester if desired

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