



High School Diploma Program Overview

Course Descriptions – Group 1: English

English Literature – Grade 9

Throughout the course, students will read a variety of literary works (drama, poetry, and prose) and non-literary works from diverse writers, some of whom are American, European, African, or Asian. Students will participate in several independent and collaborative projects, such as performing scenes, writing discursive essays and narrative essays, creating imaginative writing, and constructing projects based on the ideas and concepts studied in class. Students will also participate in several student-led Harkness discussions about the texts and material studied in and out of class. In Harkness-style discussions, students debate issues and share ideas. Students will have an opportunity to express their points of view and develop their critical and creative thinking skills.

World Literature – Grade 10

Throughout the course, students will read a variety of literary works (drama, poetry, and prose) and non-literary works from diverse writers, some of whom are American, European, African, or Asian. Students will participate in several independent and collaborative projects, such as performing scenes, writing discursive essays and narrative essays, creating imaginative writing, and constructing projects based on the ideas and concepts studied in class. Students will also participate in several student-led Harkness discussions about the texts and material studied in and out of class. In Harkness-style discussions, students debate issues and share ideas. Students will have an opportunity to express their points of view and develop their critical and creative thinking skills.

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Course Descriptions – Group 1: World Language

Chinese First Language – Grade 9 or 10

Throughout this mother tongue course, students read a variety of texts, and write a variety of text types to develop their literacy skills. Students also develop the ability to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively when speaking and writing, use a wide range of vocabulary, and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation, and develop an awareness of one's audience as well as a writer's style to convey his/her effects. Related Concepts: Audience imperatives, Character Context Genre, Intertextuality, Point of view, Purpose, Self-expression, Setting, Structure, Style, and Theme.

Course Descriptions – Group 1: Language & Literature – English

Creative Writing – Grades 11 & 12

This course is an introduction to the art of creative writing. Students will write and revise pieces in several genres including personal essays, short stories, poetry, memoirs, as well as alternative genres. The class will serve as a writing workshop, examining various processes for creating, using mentor texts as inspiration and models, and learning from providing and listening to peer feedback. Ultimately, students will engage in a supportive creative community that empowers individual curiosity, and artistic risk-taking. Students will be encouraged to contribute their pieces to EF Academy's Literary Magazine.

Film & Literature – Grades 11 & 12

In this course, students will read original novels or graphic novels before watching the film/television adaptations. They will use critical thinking and comparison strategies to develop arguments and evaluations about various book to film adaptations (and vice versa). This course will also explore film as text with a focus on film techniques, rhetorical strategies, and genres.

Journalism – Grades 11 & 12

In this course, students will study the basic principles of print and online journalism as they examine the role and impact of printed news media today. They will learn investigative skills, responsible reporting, and journalistic writing techniques (news report, editorial, tabloid etc.) as they read, respond to, and write their own news and feature articles. Students will contribute to the development and publishing of a monthly school newspaper at EF Academy.

Course Descriptions – Group 2: English as an Additional Language

EAL I, II, & III – Grades 9 & 10

The focus of our EAL courses is to develop English language skills through reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, and presenting. Students will develop an awareness of grammatical structures used in informal and formal communication and will build academic vocabulary to prepare them for other disciplinary courses. Students will learn how to conduct a research project, write academic essays, and give formal presentations. Throughout the course, students will gain awareness of how language helps them to become better critical thinkers and globally minded citizens. Each level will build upon the previous level as students continue to gain proficiency in English.

(EAL) Language & Literature – Grades 9 & 10

The focus of our Language & Literature courses for EAL students is to explore theme-based topics and concepts through a variety of print and media sources including literary and non-literary texts. Students will develop their reading skills beyond simple comprehension, learning to carefully analyze and evaluate texts. They will build upon vocabulary as they read across different genres and styles. Students will write for diverse audiences and purposes developing their organizational skills, word choice, voice, and fluency while continuing to expand English language conventions. The overall goal of the course is to foster a love of reading and writing.

EAL Resource Room

This course is designed to support our EAL I students in their core courses such as math, science, and humanities. As we aim to provide the most inclusive environment for all students, we understand that as students continue to acquire English, they may still need extra support along the way. In the EAL Resource class, students will work individually, in small groups, and one on one with a teacher on coursework from their other classes. Emphasis is placed on building academic vocabulary, writing support, and learning strategies. EAL teachers work with content teachers to ensure the students are getting the pre-teaching and re-teaching they need to have equal access to the curriculum.

Course Descriptions – Group 2: World Language

Foreign Languages: Spanish (Level I & II) – Grade 9 – 12

The foreign language courses are designed for students who want to learn a Language other than English or their native language. The foreign language courses are divided into levels. Beginners will be placed into level 1; these students will build a foundation for further study in the selected foreign language. Those who have studied Spanish in the previous year(s), or have some proficiency in the Spanish language, will be placed into level 2. Students will learn how to communicate in the Spanish while also learning about the cultures where the language is used. Throughout the courses, students will demonstrate their understanding of the language by reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the foreign language. Students will also learn how to communicate in real-life scenarios.

Course Descriptions – Group 2: Language Acquisition

English as an Additional Language – Grade 12

English as an Additional Language 12 is a course designed for students with previous learning of the English language. The focus of this course is to improve students' language skills for academic, social, and professional purposes. Language skills are developed through the study of a range of texts as well as research-based reading, writing, listening, and speaking activities. Such material will extend from oral exchanges to literary texts. Students will read a variety of text types including expository and narrative texts and use these models to create their own compositions. The material will be chosen to enable students to develop mastery of all integrated English language skills. Students will also spend time on developing their resumes and writing essays for college applications.

Foreign Languages: Spanish (Level I & II) – Grades 9 – 12

The foreign language courses are designed for students who want to learn a Language other than English or their native language. The foreign language courses are divided into levels. Beginners will be placed into level 1; these students will build a foundation for further study in the selected foreign language. Those who have studied Spanish in the previous year(s), or have some proficiency in the Spanish language, will be placed into level 2. Students will learn how to communicate in the Spanish while also learning about the cultures where the language is used. Throughout the courses, students will demonstrate their understanding of the language by reading, writing, listening, and speaking in the foreign language. Students will also learn how to communicate in real-life scenarios.

Course Descriptions – Group 3: Humanities

Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations

Ancient Civilizations is a US high school humanities course designed in collaboration with the EAL department for English learners at the upper-beginner and lower-intermediate levels. Students will engage with rich content about the development of early humans, the Agricultural Revolution, and civilizations in Mesopotamia, Africa, India, China, and the Mediterranean. Students will develop skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening in a supportive environment that is tailored to meet their individual needs, while challenging them to expand their usage of academic English.

Social Studies: 30th Century History – Grades 9 & 10 Pre-req: World Literature

In this advanced social studies course, students discuss and explore events of the 20th century that had both a national and international impact on the world. Some of the topics that will be studied in this course are the causes of WWI, the Paris Peace Conference, the League of Nations, the Great Depression, the rise of dictators, WWII, the Cold War, and decolonization. This is a reading and writing intensive course, and students will focus on skills of document analysis and argumentative writing. Students will evaluate a variety of types of sources and use them to understand and analyze major events in the 20th century.

Social Studies: Global Perspectives – Grade 10 Pre-req: World Literature

Throughout the course, students will develop an intercultural understanding and explore a variety of global issues from personal, local, national, and global perspectives. Students are encouraged to reflect on how key global issues impact their lives as well as the lives of others in today's world. Students will study a range of topics, including language & communication, conflict & peace, belief systems, tradition, culture and identity, as well as other topics that have a global significance.

Students will develop and use interdisciplinary skills, such as planning, synthesis, research, evaluation, collaboration, communication and critical thinking. By the end of the academic year, students will complete two individual research projects based on two topics of their choice, a group research project where students collaborate in the research process and reflect on what they learned about cross-cultural collaboration, and respond to essential questions based on their knowledge of global issues and perspectives.

Social Studies: Business Studies – Grade 10

The Business Studies course develops learners' understanding of business activity in the public and private sectors, and the importance of innovation and change. Learners find out how the major types of business organizations are established, financed, and run, and how their activities are regulated. Factors influencing business decision-making are also considered, as are the essential values of cooperation and interdependence.

Course Descriptions – Group 3: Individuals & Societies

Global History I – Grades 11 & 12

The course is an overview of modern American history from the end of the US Civil war to the present day, with an emphasis on primary source research and the development of analytical, evaluative, and expressive skills. The year will conclude with an exam covering the basic facts we study, and a more creative project where analytical skills will be applied.

Global History aims to give students a solid grounding in the basic content and skills to study American history on a deeper level in university and college programs.

Economics, Entrepreneurship and Finance – Grades 11 & 12

Economics, Entrepreneurship and Finance introduces fundamental economic concepts and explores the solutions that social enterprise provides for our economies. In term 1 students will work to deepen their understanding of the economic problems and institutions of the nation and the world in which they live. Students will explore issues relevant to their own lives and identify individual and group areas of interest. They will also use charts, graphs, and tables to examine the laws of supply and demand. In term 2 students will develop business ideas guided with the end of creating a social enterprise business plan. In the final term students will practice life application skills such as budgeting, time management, and excel for personal and business purposes. To complete the year all students will submit a thoroughly researched business plan for a B Corp that addresses a social need or market failure identified by the student in term 1.

Course Descriptions – Group 4: Science

Combine Science Y1 or Y2 – Grade 9 or 10

Combined Science is a comprehensive introductory course to general science designed for EAL learners. In this introductory course students gain knowledge of all three science subjects - Biology, Chemistry and Physics – with a particular emphasis on science specific vocabulary. The specific topics covered are (Physics) forces, energy, speed and thermal physics, (Biology) characteristics of life, classification, plant science and human biology, (Chemistry) acids and bases, elements and the periodic table, and chemical equations.

Along with the theoretical section of this course, there is also an introduction to experimentation and lab equipment. Students will gain scientific theory, language, and practical skills to prepare them for further studies.

Biology – Grades 9 & 10

This Biology course is designed to give students the opportunity to gain an overall understanding of the diversity and complexity of life, enabling them to learn to appreciate its value. Biology is related to many aspects of everyday life, whether we are talking about processes in the human body, new discoveries in medicine, biotechnologies, or the changing environment. The course focuses on the life processes that occur within the cell, the anatomy (the structure) and physiology (the processes) of complex multicellular organisms, and the ways by which life forms reproduce, develop, and adapt to conditions in their environment. A great emphasis is put on the structure and the processes in the human body, healthy lifestyle, and diseases. The students will have a chance to learn about the past and recent discoveries and how they affect their lives. The course is practical-oriented and helps to develop skills which are important not just for scientific experiments but useful in everyday life, like an ability to plan, work, communicate ideas and evaluate decisions.

Chemistry – Grade 9 or 10

Students will work toward a comprehensive understanding of chemistry. This foundation will include the central concepts of atomic structure, periodicity, chemical bonding, reaction stoichiometry, states of matter, reaction kinetics, chemical equilibrium, and electrochemistry. In addition, the Chemistry curriculum includes enriched topics of organic, biological, environmental, industrial, and analytical chemistry not typically covered in a first-year chemistry course. Students will develop sophisticated problem-solving strategies and fundamental laboratory skills. Emphasis will be placed upon independent investigation and thoughtful scientific research.

Physics – Grade 9 or 10

Physics is a comprehensive introductory course to the scientific study of matter, energy, force, and motion, and the way they relate to each other. This course covers all the traditional areas of a first course in physics as well as extending into new areas. The specific topics covered are measurement, speed velocity and acceleration, density, forces, energy, work, power, thermal physics, properties of waves, electricity, magnetism, and atomic physics.

Along with the theoretical section of the course, there is a strong practical aspect. Experimentation is a major part of the subject and occurs throughout the year. Students will learn essential skills as well as acquiring the ability to plan, execute, and evaluate experiments.

Computer Science – Grades 9-12

This course combines traditional computer science skills with design technology. Computer science requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computational thinking, as well as knowledge of how computers and other digital devices operate. Design technology aims to develop a high level of design literacy by enabling students to develop critical thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. Applications include coding, programming, and web design.

Biology – Grades 11 & 12

The US High School biology course covers the relationship of structure and function at all levels of complexity. Students explore a range of biology topics, including the fundamental aspects about plants and animals, the comparative vertebrate skeletons and their evolution, comparative integumentary systems, micro & macro vertebrae, extinction, sea life, ecology & trophic cascades and comparative visual systems among many other topics, to further their understanding of and learning about biology. Throughout this course, students become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. Further, students enjoy multiple opportunities for scientific study and creative inquiry within a global context.

Chemistry – Grades 11 & 12

This course offers an exploration of many areas of chemistry, including inorganic, organic, electrochemistry, energetics, kinetics, equilibrium, and biochemistry. Students will have the opportunity to learn and develop their basic understanding of chemistry and build on those concepts throughout the course to explain more complicated concepts.

Students will also participate in laboratory experimental work throughout the academic year to further their understanding of Chemistry.

Physics – Grades 11 & 12

The US High School Physics course covers the relationship of structure and function at all levels of complexity. Students explore a range of physics topics, specifically Newtonian Mechanics, Electricity and Magnetism. Throughout this course, students become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. Further, students enjoy multiple opportunities for scientific study and creative inquiry within a global context.

Marine Science – Grades 11 & 12

The study of marine science lends itself very well to hands-on work and consequently will be carried out in the estuaries of the Hudson River and Jamaica Bay. There will be many opportunities for practical work both in the field and in the laboratory. In addition, physical oceanography lends itself to the use of ocean modeling and analysis of satellite imagery which may be studied anywhere. In all practical work, students are encouraged to develop an appreciation for the question, how do we know what is true? This question invites an essential of experimental sciences, verification. The technologies used in marine science make these questions especially pertinent.

Forensic Science – Grades 11 & 12

From the days of The World Trade Center Disaster to the most recent bombings in New York City, Forensic Science has had to keep pace in a field that is constantly changing and evolving. This exciting course introduces the Forensic Sciences. Students do the real work of real forensic scientists making what they do in class both exciting and authentic. Applications include fingerprinting techniques, toxicology, and DNA analysis.

Engineering and Design – Grades 11 & 12

This course introduces students to the design process and the tools used in the engineering, design, and development. Students will experience first-hand the activities in which engineers engage throughout the design cycle. Development of design briefs, 3D solid modeling, cooperative design development, ethical considerations of engineering solutions, and developing solutions with real world constraints. Problem-solving and math as it applies to producing products and services for today's society are emphasized. STEAM is the combination of Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics. And through the proper application of STEAM, Work can be done.

Computer Science – Grades 9 – 12

This course combines traditional computer science skills with design technology. Computer science requires an understanding of the fundamental concepts of computational thinking, as well as knowledge of how computers and other digital devices operate. Design technology aims to develop a high level of design literacy by enabling students to develop critical thinking and design skills, which they can apply in a practical context. Applications include coding, programming, and web design.

Course Descriptions – Group 5: Mathematics

Integrated Math I – Grade 9 or 10

This course is intended for students who wish to understand the relevance of mathematics in everyday life with an emphasis on math vocabulary terms. Algebraic concepts are introduced early, integrated with traditional arithmetic and algebraic topics, and presented in a variety of ways to instill proficiency and confidence. At the conclusion of the course, successful students should be prepared for their next level of mathematics, in Integrated Math II or III for freshmen and Integrated Math 11 for sophomores.

Integrated Math II – Grade 9 or 10

This course is designed for students who will develop a foundation of mathematical skills appropriate for further study in either the USHS or IBDP SL for their junior/senior years. Students will also appreciate the international aspect of mathematics, its cultural and historical significance, and its role in the real world. At the conclusion of the course, successful students should be prepared for their next level of mathematics, in Integrated Math III or IV for freshmen and Integrated Math 11 or IBDP Mathematics Application & Interpretation SL for sophomores.

Integrated Math III – Grade 9 or 10

This course is designed for students who will develop a foundation of mathematical skills appropriate for further study in IBDP SL or HL for their junior/senior years. Students will also appreciate the international aspect of mathematics, its cultural and historical significance, and its role in the real world. At the conclusion of the course, successful students should be prepared for their next level of mathematics, in Integrated Math IV for freshmen and IBDP Mathematics Application & Interpretation SL, IBDP Mathematics Analysis & Approaches SL or HL for sophomores.

Integrated Math IV – Grade 10

This course is designed for very strong mathematically skilled students who will apply their previously achieved math skills in new and advanced ways and learn several additional enrichment math topics to prepare them for further study in IBDP SL or HL for their junior/senior years. At the conclusion of the course, successful students should be prepared for their next level of mathematics, in IBDP Mathematics Analysis & Approaches SL or HL for sophomores.

Integrated Math V – Grade 11

This course is intended for students who wish to develop a foundation of mathematics and apply them to other subject areas and to the real world, to read mathematics and communicate the subject in a variety of ways, and to develop a positive attitude towards mathematics which encourages enjoyment, fosters confidence, and promotes inquiry and further study in the USHS program. At the conclusion of the course, successful students should be prepared for their next level of mathematics, in Integrated Math 12.

Integrated Math VI – Grade 12

This course is intended for students progressing from Integrated Math 5. These are students who wish to continue to develop a foundation of mathematics and apply them to other subject areas and to the real world, to read mathematics and communicate the subject in a variety of ways, and to develop a positive attitude towards mathematics which encourages enjoyment, fosters confidence, and promotes inquiry and further study in the USHS program.

Course Descriptions – Group 6: Arts

Drama I & II – Grades 9 & 10

This course is offered in Grades 9 and 10. The Drama I class focuses on the multiple areas of theatrical performance and production. Students will learn about performance, choreography, how to write a play, directing, designing, stage managing and the elements of theatrical visual arts. Drama II (for returning students) expands on the topics covered in Drama I, and delves into acting, devising, directing, and producing in a much deeper and focused manner. Throughout the course, students will discover the scope of theater studies by participating in performance, design, construction, and devising projects. The course will also focus on improving students' proficiency and self-expression through cooperative and independent activities. Students will learn and use proper diction, vocal delivery, and nonverbal language in a safe and supportive learning environment.

Choir – Grades 9 - 12

As music elective, choir is a vocal ensemble designed to introduce students to choral ensembles at the high school level. The purpose of the choir is to actively engage and motivate students in the process of learning music by singing a variety of music. Students will develop the vocal skills and sight-singing skills of everyone to perform as a confident and efficient group member. This class will give students the opportunity to learn a wide variety of vocal techniques, to sing a diverse variety of music from many historic periods, perform on stage before an audience and improve individual musical abilities. In addition, students will gain a basic knowledge of music fundamentals, including western musical notation, terminology, and symbols, as well as vocabulary necessary for all rehearsed and performed music.

Intro to Songwriting – Grades 9 - 12

This course takes the student through the fundamentals of pop songwriting. The classroom will be set up with instruments (guitars, keyboard, bass, drums, amps, and full PA system for singers) available for group or individual work and study. Students who play other instruments are encouraged to bring those and participate in the class work. The class will attempt to write songs as a group, will break off into smaller units for collaborative writing and will also participate in individual work. Areas of study will be the difference between lyrics and poetry and where the two intersect, the historical context of different song styles and how to understand the difference between what is acceptable or appropriate when writing in different genres, song structure, form, phrasing, rhyme and rhythm. Added this term will be a Blues-Rock Workshop which will teach a deeper understanding of ensemble playing, improvisation and will enhance the Songwriting expertise of beginners and the more experienced students in the class.

Intro to Music – Grade 9 or 10

This introductory music course is for students with little to no musical background, but who have a desire to learn music. The only prerequisite is an interest in music and a desire to explore the rudiments of music including singing, piano and guitar, music history, music theory, music analysis, ethnic music of the world and composition. Students who excel in this course could possibly place into the advanced Music course in their tenth-grade year. The activities of the class are divided into four major categories: 1. introduction to music theory and music history, 2. learning about and practical playing various musical instruments, 3. learning basic compositional techniques, 4. ensemble and group playing.

Music – Grade 10

This course focuses on developing students' musical abilities and interests. The course focuses on composing and performing, as well as strengthening students' listening skills and honing music appreciation.

Students learn to recognize, understand and practice a variety of music from Western and non-Western traditions in order to recognize the cultural similarities and differences. Students also construct a critical response to main historical musical periods.

The course also focuses on teaching basic musical skills and knowledge. Students are encouraged to use both an instrument and their voices to create music.

Art & Design – Grades 9 & 10

This course focuses on the development of visual communication and means of expressing thoughts and ideas through a variety of artistic forms. Throughout the course, students will be encouraged to express their ideas, develop conceptual thinking, and utilize analytical ability and practical attitudes.

Students will learn how to research a variety of appropriate sources, make informed aesthetic evaluations, interpret, and respond creatively to artistic forms and movements, and use visual art to effectively express ideas. Students will also learn and practice technical and expressive skills.

Physical Education & Health – Grades 9 – 12

Students develop knowledge, skills, and an understanding of a range of relevant physical activities as well as health topics. Students' knowledge, skills and understanding come from studying both practical and theoretical aspects of physical education, as well as topics in health.

Some of the topics that will be studied include, but are not limited to, relationships & communication, mental & emotional health, drug misuse & prevention, reproductive health & STDs, nutrition, fitness/exercise, and anatomy & physiology.

Learning & Knowledge Department

- **Foundations of Learning & Knowledge I – Grades 9 & 10**
- **Foundations of Learning & Knowledge II – Grades 9 & 10**
- **Foundations of Learning & Knowledge III – Grade 10**

The FOLK courses focus on improving students' researching, critical thinking, argumentation, and teamwork skills. The key concepts from the MYP framework and related concepts from multiple subjects frame the subject matter. FOLK courses combine the MYP interdisciplinary aims as well as the IB Theory of Knowledge aims to build essential skills and to help students make connections between their other subjects.

Studio Art – Grade 12

Arts at EF Academy stimulates young imaginations, challenges perceptions, and develops creative and analytical skills. This course's tasks and projects provide a framework of learning that emphasize a wide range of technical abilities ranging from lens based, 2D and 3D construction. This breadth of activities adds a creative and cultural dimension to student development that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Students are encouraged to make connections between studies in traditional subjects and the real world. While traditional practices in the arts (for example, painting, sculpture, ceramics, and architecture) have historically provided cultural records, contemporary practice and access to technology have given the tools of visual art a very broad palette. Digital technology, time-based art, installation, and performance, to name but a few, add to traditional practice and bring an extra dimension and meaning to the students' experience in the visual art. The process of making ideas a reality using the skills and practices of visual art is an integral part of the course.

Teaching and learning in Visual Art at EF Academy comes from an understanding of education that celebrates the many ways people work together to construct meaning and make sense of the world. Represented as the interplay between asking (inquiry), doing (action) and thinking (reflection), this constructivist approach leads towards open

classrooms where different views and perspectives are valued. Our aim is to empower students for success in collaborating with others and for a lifetime of learning. This course aims to prepare a community of learners to engage with complex global challenges through a dynamic educational experience framed by inquiry, action, and reflection.

History of Rock-N-Roll – Grades 11 & 12

The US High School History of Rock'n'roll course covers the deep roots of this American art form and traces its history to a wide expanse of local and international influences and the music's impact on foreign musical cultures in the latter half of the 20th century and into the new millennium. Students explore a range of topics, including the key artists whose music defined the genre, the regional flavors that characterized their recordings, the studio production techniques and sounds that distinguished the styles that were produced, the primary instruments used to make this music and the players whose work changed the course of the music's sound and timbre over the decades. Throughout this course, students become aware of how the music they listen to today has its roots in places they never imagined. Further, students enjoy multiple opportunities for firsthand experience of live Rock'n'roll and the genres that were its progenitors, Blues, Jazz, Boogie Woogie, Bluegrass, Country, and Gospel Music.

