**COURSE DESCRIPTIONS Fall 2021**

***ENGLISH / LANGUAGE ARTS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**English I**

Ninth grade marks the beginning of many important transitions, including the experience of becoming a young adult. The overarching theme in ELA this year will focus on, **“Coming of *Age.”*** We will explore the theme of “Coming of Age” and examine how writers in a variety of texts use stylistic choices to create the voices of characters who are going through life-changing experiences. Along the way, you will conduct interviews, analyze arguments, and examine the complex relationship between an author’s purpose, their audience and the ways in which they appeal to readers. By the end of the year, your academic “Coming of Age” will be marked by an understanding of voice, appeals and persuasive techniques including pathos, logos and ethos.

We will cover all fundamental principles of the writing process. Essays will be written to generate text analysis and persuasive writing as well as to study models for structure and style. This class also requires students to conduct and compose a  final research paper. We will work on improving grammar skills and expanding the acquisition of grade level vocabulary.

**English II**

The English program at The Beekman School concentrates on the development of four integral skills that are keys to success across the curriculum: reading, written communication, oral communication, and critical thinking.

Your sophomore year will focus on “Culture”, which influences everything from who you are as an individual to how you communicate, relate and interact with other people. You can understand your own culture better when you see it in comparison with other cultures.

We will explore different cultures and perspectives by reading texts that reflect on the connection between cultural heritage and sense of identity. Our examination of culture will include how culture affects people’s perspectives on political and social changes. We will further explore cultures in conflict and how every culture must deal with justice and injustice. Different cultures may have different methods for arriving at justice, but every society must explore the complex questions of right and wrong, just and fair.

We will continue to cover all fundamental principles of the writing process. Essays will be written to generate text analysis and persuasive writing as well as to study models for structure and style. This class also requires students to conduct and compose a social justice research paper. We will also work on improving grammar skills and expanding the acquisition of SAT level vocabulary.

**English III**

This course is a literature and writing course designed for students who have already learned basic English grammar; fundamental, academic essay skills; story elements; and can easily read in the English language. The focus for the course is American Literature. It provides a survey of the literature of the United States with a focus on how a writer's life experience motivates the style and purpose of their writing. The writing focus for this course has two foci: the personal essay and the persuasive essay.

**English IV**

This course begins with a focus on personal narratives, as students discover and develop their unique voice by reading and analyzing a selection of personal essays. Students learn, practice, and apply narrative writing skills to produce a complete personal essay for use in the college application process, while group discussion and analysis introduce students to college seminar skills and dialogue-based learning.

Students also engage a comprehensive unit on literary analysis, using a diverse array of literature - a novel, short story, and literary essay. The course also includes training in truth-telling through a process-based research project. Throughout the unit, students learn and practice comprehensive research skills, including background research, vetting news sources for bias, locating scholarly perspectives and even conducting phone and video interviews with experts.

Finally, students engage a dual unit on satire and poetry. First, students learn and study satire in established literature, and then they compare and contrast these works with present-day satire, including episodes from Saturday Night Live and The Colbert Report, as they analyze exaggeration, subversion and imitation.

**AP English Literature & Composition**

This is a rigorous course that teaches students to the level of difficulty of a 1st year college literature class. As per College Board's guidelines, this course puts an emphasis on imaginative literature. The course is designed to help students deepen their experience of creative literature and focus on six Big Ideas: Character, Setting, Structure, Narration, Figurative Language, and Literary Argumentation.

**Creative Writing**

This course focuses on the short story format to help students develop their creative skills and inspiration. The foundational approach builds on the cliche "practice makes perfect." Many new writers have the illusion that creative writing happens by magic; however, we don't expect a pianist to play a sonata the first time they sit at a piano; we don't expect the everyday man to don tights and prance onto the stage of the Kirov Ballet; we don't believe Caravaggio rendered his *Medusa* in kindergarten. So, why do we think creative writing is something we have...or we have not? This course helps students learn to practice writing.

**E.S.O.L**.

This course concentrates on basic English skills in order to help students better understand, speak, read, and write English. The course focuses on grammar, vocabulary, reading comprehension, conversation skills, and simple writing tasks.

***HISTORY / SOCIAL SCIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Early World History**

This is a yearlong course, designed to cover human beginnings in Africa up through the European Medieval Period. Students will be asked to see how various historical moments relate to their own experiences, and how they themselves are a part of the grand scope of history. The course emphasizes the relationship between global events and the interconnectedness of political, social and economic systems, as well as other elements of culture including technology, conflict, environment, belief and modes of expression. The course will approach topics from a global perspective and will devote some time to both current events and geography

**Modern World History**

This is a yearlong course, designed to begin with the Renaissance in Western Europe and proceed through the Cold War. Students will be asked to see how various historical moments relate to their own experiences, and how they themselves are a part of the grand scope of history. The course emphasizes the relationship between global events and the interconnectedness of political, social and economic systems, as well as other elements of culture including technology, conflict, environment, belief and modes of expression. The course will approach topics from a global perspective and will devote some time to both current events and geography

**United States History**

This is a year-long course designed primarily to present students with historical information that allows them to form their own judgments, opinions, and perspectives of the history of the United States. This course looks through the lens of how the United States has become a deeply politicized nation. The course material asks students to examine the present by looking at the political, social, and economic forces that have shaped the past. The course begins with the exploration of the continent and goes on through the nation's involvement in World War II, with a constant awareness of connections to current events.

**AP U.S. History**

In this course, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods from approximately 1491 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change. The course also provides eight themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: American and national identity; work, exchange, and technology; geography and the environment; migration and settlement; politics and power; America in the world; American and regional culture; and social structures. AP U.S. History is equivalent to a two-semester introductory college course in U.S. History. There are no prerequisites for this course. Students should be able to read a college-level textbook and write grammatically correct, complete sentences.

**Government**

This is a one-semester course for seniors. The course discusses basic political theory, reviews the United States Constitution, and examines current political systems in our country and throughout the world. In addition to studying the three branches of government, specific topics of study. May include U.S. citizenship policy, civil liberties, public interest and opinion, and mass media. The course also focuses heavily on political ethics and policy. Students learn to recognize and think critically about national and international problems, and to articulate their opinions of these issues. Upon completion of this course, it is hoped that the student will be able to successfully fight for his/her beliefs, cast an informed vote in elections, and participate in the United States government as an educated citizen.

**Advanced Government**

This is a one-semester course for seniors. The course begins with basic political theory and study of the founding of the nation and the corresponding documents, but incorporates the themes of freedom, order, and equality into the curriculum. The course continues with an in-depth study of federalism in America. In addition to studying the make-up of the government, students learn about electoral politics, lobbying, interest groups and the mass media. They finish with an incredible understanding of lawmaking and Congress, as well as the Presidency and the Supreme Court. This course assists the student in preparing for the American Government AP exam, though he/she will have to complete additional outside study to cover all topics on the test.

**Economics**

This is a required one-semester course. In it we study basic types of economic systems, how they intersect with government, and how they affect the people who live under them. Specifically, we focus on the U.S. economy by looking at the two main branches: macro-economics and microeconomics. Even if you don't agree with Marx's viewpoint that money dictates every aspect of our lives, it is true that money is inextricably tied to them. Whether in terms of a business involvement, your own wallet, or the government, understanding how these decisions are made and how they affect you is an indispensable undertaking.

**Advanced Economics**

This is the advanced version of a required one-semester course. In it we study basic types of economic systems, how they intersect with government, and how they affect the people who live under them. Specifically, we focus on the U.S. economy by looking at the two main branches: macroeconomics and microeconomics. This course should also provide a framework to understand news reports and politicians when they speak about inflation, the GNP, trusts, globalization, investments, balance of trade, taxes, etc. This course includes more topics than the regular Economics class, as well as more in-depth discussions of the topics covered there. Even if you don't agree with Marx's viewpoint that money dictates every aspect of our lives, it is true that money is inextricably tied to them. Whether in terms of a business involvement, your own wallet, or the government, understanding how these decisions are made and how they affect you, is an indispensable undertaking.

**Cold War**

This is a semester-long course designed to present students with an in-depth look at the origins, notable events and results of the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States that affected the entire world, in one way or another, between 1945 and 1991. We discuss Stalin and the Soviet Union, the Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam, China under Mao, Che Guevara, Gorbachev and much more. The course helps students to better understand the world today by looking at the events of the recent past that helped shape it.

**History at the Movies**

Can we actually learn history by watching films and television series? This course attempts to answer that question. Students view film clips as well as movies in their entirety, while learning about the historical events and individuals who are being portrayed. We place a particular emphasis on different depictions of the same moments and people, to cast light on just how divergent the same event can be, as seen through a different lens. We learn more about the history that each film addresses and analyze the accuracy or inaccuracy of each movie. Participating in this course affords students a unique opportunity to use critical thinking skills to enrich their study of history.

**First Ladies**

This is a one-semester course designed to broaden our understanding of United States history and politics. You may have memorized all of the Presidents at some point, but how much do you know about their personal lives and those closest to them? This course explores U.S. Presidential history by examining the lives and activities of the women at the Presidents' sides. We learn about some who were known as gracious hostesses and others who were rumored to be the actual person running things behind the scenes. In the process we reach a deeper understanding of how women's roles have evolved through this nation's history as well as delve into some fascinating facts about life in the White House.

**Bloody Crusades**

The Crusades were a tumultuous period in history that witnessed unprecedented violence and savagery. However, they also resulted in cultural diffusion that impacted the world in positive ways. In this course we look at the origins of the crusading movement, including a discussion of the Byzantine Empire, early Christianity, and Islam. We then discuss the First Crusade, which resulted in the Christian capture of Jerusalem and the creation of the Crusader States. We then follow events through the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Crusades. We also touch on the Reconquista in Spain, the Baltic Crusades, and the Crusades promulgated against Christians (a strange but fascinating story).

**Barbarians!**

This is a one-semester course designed to broaden our understanding of the history that we frequently treat as a side note. We will learn about various groups that have been called "barbarians" and interrogate what that label actually means. We will move beyond the views held by others and explore how these groups understood themselves, by examining their art, their heroes and their gods. So-called “barbarians” count among some of the most recognizable historical cultures as well as being some of the most enigmatic. We will try to get to the true story, moving beyond images of violence and destruction to examining their accomplishments and contributions to the world we live in. We will also take the opportunity to look at how barbarians are portrayed in popular culture and to see what light this sheds on our own society and self-perception.

**New York City History**

This is a one-semester course designed to broaden our understanding of the city that we live in. We will focus on certain key topics and moments within the history of NYC, starting with its founding and working through to the present day. Within this larger framework, we will hone in on key moments and special topics. The course will partially be guided by our own groups’ interests, and each student will have the opportunity to research and present on topics of their choice in addition to covering more overarching concepts. Students will leave the course with a greater appreciation of NYC and the events and individuals who helped to create its unique character.

**Modern Politics**

This course is designed to continue where our US History classes left off - in the modern era. We focus on American domestic policies and international relations from World War II to the present, from a political/historical perspective. Issues we may address are: What did the end of WWII signify for the U.S? How did the Presidency change from Eisenhower to Obama? How did the Vietnam War, Civil Rights Movement and Woman's Movement reshape US politics? How has the U.S. been affected by the ongoing war on terrorism?

**International Politics**

This is a semester-long course designed to present students with an in-depth look at the notable events of World History in the period since World War II. We discuss Stalin and the Soviet Union, The Middle East, Global Terrorism, China and Hong Kong, South Africa, Putin and much more. The course helps students to better understand the world today by looking at the events of the recent past that helped shape it. We also focus on world events going on right now and the current problems we all must deal with, including Climate Change, Brexit, Iran and North Korea.

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***MATH\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Algebra I**

This course introduces various topics that comprise elementary algebra. Students not only acquire important algebraic skills to simplify problems and solve equations, but they also gain an understanding of the concepts that lie at the heart of algebraic manipulations. Major topics include the algebraic modeling of real life problems, solving and graphing equations and inequalities; systems of equations; ratios and proportions; properties and use of exponents; mathematical modeling using functions, tables and graphs; number patterns, counting methods and permutations; polynomials and factoring; radical expressions and equations.

**Geometry**

This course is a critical component of a mathematics education because students are required to relate concepts from Algebra I and Algebra II to geometric phenomena. It requires students to focus on logical proof and critical thinking when solving problems or evaluating arguments. Much of the course is focused on preparation for Pre­Calculus, and thus several concepts and activities preview topics from these higher-level mathematics courses and analytic geometry. The course includes an in-depth analysis of plane, solid, and coordinate geometry as they relate to both abstract mathematical concepts as well as real-world problem situations. Topics include logic and proof, parallel lines and polygons, perimeter and area analysis, volume and surface area analysis, similarity and congruence, trigonometry, and analytic geometry.

**Algebra II/Trigonometry**

This course reviews and extends the mathematical investigations of Algebra I and Geometry courses into the study of function theory, trigonometry, systems of equations and inequalities, and exponential and logarithmic functions. It constitutes the third-year course in the Mathematics Department syllabus progression.

**Pre-Calculus**

This course is a rigorous one-year introduction to the major topics of precalculus. Students learn about topics that are beyond the scope of both Algebra II and Sequential Math III, but which are necessary for Calculus. This course is recommended for any student who is interested and proficient in mathematics and wishes to expand and extend his/her knowledge in this area by pursuing the subject beyond the framework of basic algebra and geometry course offerings.

**AP Calculus AB**

This course is designed for students who have a strong background in Precalculus, including equation theory and trigonometry, and wish to continue their study of higher-level mathematics as well as take the AP Calculus AB exam. As such, this course is aimed at students who are hard workers and/or looking for a challenge. Topics include functions, limits, differentiation, logarithmic & exponential functions, applications of differentiation, integration, applications of integration, and further techniques of integration. There is a heavy emphasis on problem-solving, particularly in the form of word problems.

**Get Rich or Die Tryin’**

This course in financial literacy is designed to educate students in concepts of personal finance and money management. By employing the case study method and active discussions, students learn the skills and strategies that promote personal and financial responsibility related to financial planning, savings, investment, and charitable giving in the global economy. Five broad topics are the foundation of the course: college and career planning, money management, savings and investing, income, and spending.

**SAT/ACT Math**

This course consolidates the student's understanding of the math topics covered on the SAT and ACT exams. In addition to covering all relevant mathematical subjects, the course also develops test-taking strategies particularly useful for scoring well. Information strips available on all Math SATs and ACTs are gone over in advance so no time will be lost in making use of them on the actual exams. Similarly, the process of entering the “student response” answers on the exams so the answer can be correctly scored are reviewed so no time will be wasted during the actual exam. Math SATs and ACTs from previous years are given, scored, and analyzed so that mistakes are corrected and not carried forward. Material vital to scoring well is drilled and tested. Exercises and problems utilizing techniques and reasoning identical to the thought processes needed to quickly solve SAT/ACT math questions are studied and practiced with intensity.

**Statistics**

Statistics prepares students for our changing technological world. So-called "big data" and A.I. technology are built upon statistical foundations, and statistical thinking is becoming increasingly important in the job market. In this course students learn inferential and descriptive statistics, become comfortable with experimental methods as well as data sets, both in their raw and graphical forms. Students learn to interpret histograms, stem plots, time plots, and scatter plots. They use descriptive statistics such as the median, mean, and standard deviation to describe data, and evaluate data distributions. Students examine relationships using correlations and least square regressions, and calculate the probability of simple and compound events. They estimate confidence intervals and explore tests of significance, as well as evaluate the statistical validity.

**Math in Real Life**

Math is everywhere and yet we may not recognize it because it doesn't look like the math we do in the classroom. Math in the world around us sometimes seems invisible, but it is present in our world all the time – in the workplace, in our homes, and in our personal lives. You are using math every time you pay a bill, book a flight, look at the temperature for the day, go grocery shopping, bake something, buy something on sale, calculate your wages, or a tip. In this course, we cover the following skills to better help you in everyday real life situations: addition and subtraction, multiplication and division, order of operations, rounding off, estimation, following formulas, graphing, interest, fractions, decimals, percentages, metric measurement, metric conversions, exponents, and problem solving.

***SCIENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Biology**

Biology is an exciting and rapidly growing field of study. This one-year course is an introduction to the biological sciences. Students develop a greater understanding of the fundamental principles of living organisms, including cell structure and function, animal behavior, genetics and heredity, evolution and classification, diversity of living organisms, and plant and animal structure and function. Laboratory periods are used to reinforce the topic currently being considered and to develop necessary process skills and reasoning ability required in scientific inquiry and investigations.

**Chemistry**

This course is designed to challenge the foundations of our universe. From the atoms in your body to the atoms in deep space. First students learn what atoms are and how scientists study chemistry. After students learn the foundation, they learn how atoms interact to form bonds and various macromolecules. The study of Chemistry is pervasive and used throughout our day to day lives. A foundational understanding of Chemistry and its related disciplines help build a better understanding of our fascinating universe and our place in it.

**Physics**

This course is a one-year introduction to the major topics of physics. Students learn about the dynamic relationships between matter and energy. Modern applications of the preceding principles are emphasized. In order to fully understand and apply physical principles, students should have a thorough grasp of algebra-based problem-solving skills. The emphasis of this course is to understand the fundamental principles governing physics; number-crunching and absolute answers are not the primary objectives in this course.

**Theoretical Physics**

This is a one-year math intensive science course of major topics in physics, with a stronger focus on Modern Physics. Students learn about the dynamic relationships between waves and energy, electricity and magnetism, as well as atomic and nuclear physics. Modern applications of the preceding principles are emphasized. In order to fully understand and apply physical principles, students should have a thorough grasp of algebra and trigonometry-based problem-solving skills.

**Forensic Science**

This course provides students with an introduction to forensic science. Topics covered include forensic analysis of physical evidence, firearms, fingerprints, autopsy, documents, entomology, anthropology, and DNA. Specifically, the course introduces students to the history of forensic science, careers in the field and the biological, chemical and technological practices involved in crime scene processing. Students are required to collect, examine, test, interpret and solve problems using the scientific method. Communicating scientific information orally and in written form is stressed, as is complex reasoning and critical thinking skills.

An appropriate level of maturity is required. Students are exposed to disturbing pictures, videos, readings, and discussions related to crime scene investigations. Students are never be forced to interact with material they find uncomfortable, however, alternative assignments are not be made available.

**Astronomy**

This one-semester elective is an introduction to the field of astronomy. It provides a survey of our modern understanding of the cosmos, including the formation of our solar system and galaxy, and our overall place in the universe. A major course objective is to provide an appreciation for how our lives are connected at the most fundamental level to the sun, moon, planets, stars, and galaxies that fill our skies.

**Anatomy and Physiology**

This course is a study of the relationship between the structures and functions of the human body. Students study the 11 body systems as well as how the body maintains homeostasis. The course includes lab activities, projects, demonstrations, and case studies.

**Ecology**

This course provides students with an overview of the relationship between humans and their environment. Specifically, the course introduces students to the environmental problems that we face including human population growth, air pollution, water pollution, loss of biological diversity and energy usage, and discusses potential solutions to these problems. We also investigate local environmental issues.

**Electronics**

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in the fundamentals of electricity and electronics. Students are introduced to DC and AC currents, basic concepts relating to atom theory, instrumentation, circuit materials, energy, sources of electricity, series, parallel and combination circuits, magnetism, transformers, inductance, capacitance, semiconductors, and integrated circuits. Students have the opportunity to learn in a hands-on lab where they learn to solder and complete projects such as electronic decision makers, sound-to-light units, theremins, digital clocks, radios, and robotic micro bugs.

**Health Education**

This course is a serious, in-depth approach to taking responsibility for your emotional, physical, and social welfare as a young adult. It is a one-semester course designed to disseminate the information necessary for students to understand how to become and stay healthy. This course provides information, poses questions, solves problems, and supports students in a sensitive, confidential environment. Although there are some objectively right or wrong answers in this subject, much of the important learning involves questions that do not have clear-cut answers. Therefore, besides quizzes and tests for each unit, there are also be short essays and reading responses throughout the semester.

Health is a required course in the state of New York. At the Beekman School, this course is taken very seriously. It is our belief that in order to understand how to stay healthy and fit, one must have a familiarity with basic psychology, biology and physiology. Once these concepts are understood, Health students can take an active role in maintaining and improving their health and well-being.

**Science from A to M**

In this one-semester course, we investigate eponymous laws that have made significant contributions in science and technology, in alphabetical order. We learn about the scientists behind the laws, the laws themselves and their practical application in our everyday life. This course is a great way to better understand our world around us through science. A broad range to scientific disciplines is covered in this course including astronomy, anatomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, genetics, and physics. The course is partially project based, with students completing a corresponding project at the end of each letter unit. A sampling of topics covered includes the Atomic Theory and the Atomic Bomb, the Birth of our Universe and the Big Bang Theory, Cell Theory and Cancer, Darwin’s Theory of Evolution, Forces, Friction and Gravity, Human Body systems.

**Science from N to Z**

In this one-semester course, we continue our investigation of eponymous laws that have made significant contributions in science and technology, in alphabetical order. We learn about the scientists behind the laws, the laws themselves and their practical application in our everyday life. This course is a great way to better understand our world around us through science. A broad range to scientific disciplines is covered in this course including astronomy, anatomy, biology, chemistry, engineering, genetics, and physics. The course is partially project based, with students completing a corresponding project at the end of each letter unit. A sampling of topics covered includes Natural Selection, Osteology, Planet Earth Biomes, Species Interaction, Toxicology, Virology, Xylology.

***COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**3D Graphics Production**

This one-semester introductory computer course introduces students to the world of 3D graphics production through the various stages of development known as a graphics production pipeline with the software program Autodesk Maya. The course focuses on modeling texturing and rendering.

**Audio Mixing**

This one-semester introductory computer course introduces students to digital audio manipulation with the software program Apple Garage Band. The course focuses on tips, tricks, and techniques for producing professionally mixed audio.

**Coding**

This one-semester introductory computer course introduces students to the principles in coding with Apple's Swift Playgrounds. The course uses the swift language to learn the basics of programming.

**Digital Imaging**

This is a one-semester computer course that introduces students to digital imaging using Affinity Photo for iPad. Students learn each tool in detail through tutorials, projects, and quizzes. Throughout this course, students engage in several large projects that develop a general understanding of creating, manipulating, and improving digital images using Affinity Photo.

**2.5D Motion Graphics**

This is a one-semester advanced computer course that leads students through the principles of motion graphics in 3 dimensions. Students advance through the various stages involved: concept, storyboard, animating, editing, and audio enhancement.

**Digital Illustration**

This one-semester course involves inquiry into the nature of graphic design and visual problem solving. This course discusses what constitutes successful logo design, the impact of typography, explore layout and define the various elements of design. Students work independently on projects ranging from logos, visual analogues, and posters.

**Game App Development**

This one-semester introductory computer course introduces students to the world of App Development through the various stages of production, from layout planning and design to building. The course uses the BuildBox software and online service. The course focuses on delivering a final app.

**Video Production**

This is a one-semester computer course that introduces students to video and audio editing through the use of digital camcorders and software. Students learn the basics of video and movie creation from beginning to end including preproduction and storyboarding, shot angles, capturing and importing footage, scoring music and exporting. At the completion of this course, students will have created several video shorts in both a collaborative and independent setting.

***FOREIGN LANGUAGE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Spanish I**

At the end of this course, students will be able to hold a basic conversation and make simple requests similar to the ones found in a traveler’s language guide. They will be able, using the present tense, to greet people, introduce themselves, give information about themselves, order a meal in a restaurant, shop, count money, ask for directions, and seek medical care, make friends, say where they are from exchange phone numbers, say which day it is, express likes and preferences, describe others, talk about clothing and jewelry, talk about food and exercise, talk about hobbies and sports, describe their family, state their age and ask others their age, talk about birthdays, express possession, express basic emotions, describe classes and classroom objects, discuss the rules of their school, say how often they do something, and discuss obligation.

**Spanish II**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I.* The objective of Spanish II is to obtain proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. In addition, students will acquire a firm linguistic base, which is the foundation of effective communication and meaningful language proficiency. . Furthermore, students will learn to situate the language within the context of the contemporary Spanish–speaking world and its cultures. The emphasis in this course sequence is to actively apply the fundamentals that were introduced in the preliminary Spanish course (Spanish I). Students will develop their communication skills by learning to express complex thoughts and ideas. Among the verb forms studied are the present, the imperfect, the preterite tense, reflexive verbs, the imperative, and the future. To facilitate thinking in the target language in an abstract manner, a variety of literary texts are read and discussed. In addition, specific attention will be paid to correct pronunciation and diction.

**Spanish III**

*Prerequisite: Spanish II .* The objective of Spanish III is to refine listening, speaking, reading, and writing in the target language. In addition, students will strengthen and expand their linguistic base, thus enhancing the foundation of effective communication and meaningful language proficiency. Students will continue to learn to situate the language within the context of the contemporary Spanish–speaking world and its cultures. The emphasis in this course sequence is to actively apply the fundamentals that were introduced in the primary and secondary Spanish courses (Spanish I and Spanish II). Students will develop their communication skills by learning to express complex thoughts and ideas. Written assignments of a more substantial length will afford students the opportunity to write in a more academic manner. Among the verb forms reviewed are the present, the imperfect, the preterit, reflexive verbs, the imperative, the future, the future perfect, the conditional, the present perfect, and the subjunctive and imperfect subjunctive. Students will learn grammar within the context of excerpts from various authors, such as Ana María Matute, Horacio Quiroga, and Luis C. Infante. The literary context in which students encounter the language will allow them to think critically about the ideas and situations presented by the authors. In addition, specific attention will be paid to correct pronunciation and diction, and the subtle nuances of spoken language.

**Spanish IV**

*Prerequisite: Spanish III.*The objective of Spanish IV is to further the communication skills acquired in Spanish III, with the aim of language proficiency. The course includes extensive oral expression. Authentic audio and video recordings as well as native Spanish speakers are accessed to improve comprehension and conversation. Reading selections from authentic materials and selected Hispanic literature are read for comprehension, as well as newspapers and magazines. Discussion, debate, projects, compositions, and other directed writings demonstrate understanding of the culture and the complexities of the language and vocabulary. The majority of the course is conducted in Spanish. By the end of Spanish 4, students will have been exposed to the majority of the most important points of Spanish grammar and will be able to read a Spanish newspaper, some novels, and some advanced literature with the aid of a dictionary. Students should be able to express themselves in writing and in speech on a wide variety of topics on a level that would allow them to live in a Spanish speaking country, and within a few months of practice, attain a level of proficiency sufficient to engage in employment and navigate daily life in another culture and language..

***ARTS\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Art IA**

This course emphasizes Art & Design Elements (Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Tone) and Principles (Focal Point, Balance, Leading Lines, Pattern, Perspective, Proportion and Scale) in creating visual compositions. Students study a basic Art History Timeline from Prehistoric to Postmodern.

In the first part of the course, students explore collage/drawing/printmaking exercises that help them develop technical skills with various art materials in relationship to the Elements and Principles.

In the second part of the course, students choose a socially-engaged theme or topic, and then use their collage/drawing/printmaking skills to create one or more substantially sized compositions that express their chosen theme. Students then present their final composition(s) at the Beekman Student Exhibition at the end of the semester, using critique methods that have been taught throughout the entire semester.

**Art IB**

This course emphasizes Art & Design Elements (Line, Shape, Color, Texture, Tone) and Principles (Focal Point, Balance, Leading Lines, Pattern, Perspective, Proportion and Scale) in creating visual compositions. Students study Modern and Postmodern artists as “mentors” for their visual work.

In the first part of the course, students explore exercises that help them develop technical skills with various art materials in relationship to the Elements and Principles.

In the second part of the course, students work on a “mini-portfolio” to present at the Beekman Student Exhibition at the end of the semester, using critique methods that have been taught throughout the entire semester.

Ideally, students complete Art 1A before Art 1B, but each course can “stand alone” as well.

**Art Portfolio**

Students create a series of semi-professional student projects that can be shown in a physical or digital/online portfolio. Projects may be physical (on paper) or digital (Photoshop or other). Final project is to evaluate your portfolio series with the help of teachers and classmates. Must have previous art experience (or Beekman Art Classes).

***OTHER\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_***

**Introduction to Criminal Justice**

This course is designed to provide students with an overview of the many facets of criminal law, criminal procedure, and the criminal justice system. Topics covered include: comparison of US and foreign criminal law and criminal justice systems; the 8th amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment; statutory definition of various crimes; justification and affirmative defenses; the 4th amendment’s prohibition of unreasonable search and seizures and the exclusionary rule; courtroom procedures and the role of prosecutor, defense attorney, judge and jury; basic rules of evidence in criminal cases; the juvenile justice system; and special issues pertaining to immigrants in the criminal justice system.

**Introduction to Psychology**

This course is a broad introduction to the field of psychology. Students examine the key figures, various theoretical perspectives, and research studies that have shaped some of the major areas of contemporary psychology. This course also delves into the research methods used by psychologists across these areas to better understand the origins and variations in human behavior.

**Introduction to Philosophy**

This is one-semester course provides a general overview of the most prominent philosophers, including Socrates, Plato and Aristotle. The course then moves into the era of more modern philosophers including Thomas Aquinas, Descartes, Kant, Hume, Rousseau, Wollstonecraft, Hegel, Hobbes, Locke, Nietzsche, and Kierkegaard. The course ends with the examination of the major Existentialists: Sartre and Camus.

Issues studied include examining the idea of a universal right/wrong, systems of reality, reality of the self vs. reality of the society, ethics, morality, justice, religion, human freedom, philosophical questions of epistemology, skepticism, truth, aesthetics, the role of the senses, existentialism, deconstruction, and post-modernism.