



**The Graham  
School**

encounter the world, engage the mind

**Course Offerings  
2nd Semester, 2016-2017**

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# The Graham School

## Course Offerings

### 2nd Semester, 2016-2017

*All courses listed are ONE semester courses unless otherwise noted. Semester courses are worth 0.5 credit while yearlong courses are worth 1.0 credit.*

## English

**Course:** More Than a Single Story  
**SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Kathryn Livingston  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 English  
**Sections:** 2: 11th & 12th grades only  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

In this class we will explore the concept of single stories, first by reading *Things Fall Apart* then by looking at single stories others hold of us. We could, of course do this with any novel, so why *Things Fall Apart*? For centuries Europeans attempted to define and describe Africans, but they did it in a way that was demeaning at best, but more often downright racist. Achebe didn't want anyone defining him or his ancestors, so he wrote a book to help explain who he was. This resonates with many Americans' present experiences. To help bring appeal to this story we'll read it, analyze it and then make our own by sharing stories of our own or about others.

**Course:** Conflict & Resolution: ELA 10 **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Megan McCormack  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1 English  
**Sections:** Three: 10th grade only  
**Meeting Days:** MTWThF

As a high school student, it becomes increasingly clear that conflict surrounds us. Throughout this class, we will be exploring conflict in ourselves, our peers, and in our world, and the different ways we come about resolutions. Students will be expected to read inside and outside of class, as we delve into these topics in literature, informational, and historical texts, as well as in writing and respectful conversation. The anchor texts in this course are "To Kill A Mockingbird," "Othello," and a novel of the student's choice for literature circles. Students will be required to compose a personal narrative essay and one argumentative essay.

**Course:** Creative Writing **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Megan McCormack  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 English  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

Throughout history, stories have been told through the mode of writing in order to communicate something about ourselves, each other, and the world. In Creative Writing, students will learn the craft of writing short narrative stories. Students will be expected to write both inside and outside of class: drafting, writing, and revising both on their own and with peers. We will begin by focusing on creating well-developed plots, descriptive settings, and authentic characters. As we perfect these skills, our focus will shift to different genres of writing, such as horror, romance, science fiction, and fantasy. Students will study the elements and techniques of these different genres and the craft of writing each one, which will culminate in a portfolio of work at the end of the semester.

**Course:** My Voice, Your Voice, Our Voices: ELA 9 **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Laurel Wakely  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1 English  
**Sections:** 3: 9th grade only  
**Meeting Days:** MTWTHF

Beginning high school marks a shift from being a child to being a young adult. In this class, students will carefully consider what it means to be an “adult” and how adults function in society. Through reading literature, examining informational texts, collaborating with classmates and instructors, speaking, listening, researching and observing, students will mindfully consider who they are, what type of person they want to be, how they can accomplish that while being a compassionate member of a complex and dynamic society.

**Course:** Poetry by the People and for the People **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Laurel Wakely  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 English  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

This course will give students a chance to read a number of different poems by a diverse set of poets from the past and present. Students will try their hand at composing poems according to many structures and they will workshop their poems to make their pieces powerful. This class gives students a chance to express their voices in a unique way while expanding their

understandings of the power of language and the importance of embracing the complexity of life from many perspectives.

**Course:** Utopian and Dystopian Literature **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Kevin Elliott  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 English  
**Sections:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

As technology and society work together to become more efficient, will our fascination with a perfect society lead to a more civilized and humane world? Or, will it have an adverse effect?

Man has always yearned for the perfect society, a society free of poverty, of hardship, of injustice, and even conflict. Utopia is the word for this vision. Although we can imagine and dream utopia, we struggle to realize the ideal. Still, we try, and in trying, there are complications. There are serious consequences for attempting to make things perfect, because sometimes in aiming for perfection we are blinded by the frailty, sensitivity, and imperfections that are inherent in humankind.

However, this is not to say that we should not strive to improve our living conditions. So, how do we decide what ideas are worth preserving and which should be discarded? How do we improve the living conditions of humanity while maintaining individual rights, freedom, and liberty? If ideas don't work or haven't worked for some time, why do we continue to support it?

**Course:** Journalism 1 **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Kevin Elliott  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 English  
**Sections:** 1 (preferably no previous Journalism credits)  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

"Media" is a broad term – but no matter how much we engage with media or try to ignore it, media is responsible for how we gather information and form our opinion of the world around us. In a 24-hour news cycle dominated by Twitter feeds, Facebook updates, Youtube channels, and cable networks, it's extremely difficult to focus on what is a reliable, unbiased, and worthwhile news source.

In this course you will learn how to navigate through that media wilderness and become an expert in separating the good from the bad in journalism. You will learn how to research a topic thoroughly, how to become investigative reporters and how to conduct a professional interview. First and foremost, this is a writing class. This course will require each student to learn the fundamentals and writing conventions involved in creating fresh, informative, and creative non-fiction.



**Course: An Exploration of Print and Digital Media** **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor: Kevin Elliott**  
**Academic Credit Area: .5 English or .5 Tech**  
**Sections: 1 - 11th and 12th grade only (pre-req: Journalism)**  
**Meeting Days: MWF**

In exploring the wide world of journalism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, students will be able to parse through the noise and identify credible sources, authors, publications, and sites that provide us with perspectives of integrity and worth. Students in this class will have already been familiar with the fundamentals of newswriting and will take those skills above and beyond to create a student run newspaper.

This class can also be taken for a technology credit – as students will learn a myriad of programs and software in order to create online videos, podcasts, and to evolve the design of the newspaper.

## **Experiential**

All Students will be taking Crew with their experiential levels. These courses are designed to further connect academic and experiential opportunities for our students. When scheduling, each student will be placed in their appropriate Crew Monday through Friday.

## **Fine Arts**

**Course: Art I** **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor: Randi Channel**  
**Academic Credit Area: 0.5 Fine Art Credit**  
**Sections: 1**  
**Meeting Days: MWF**  
***Fee: \$10 to cover the cost of materials***

Art I is an introductory level class designed to meet students at a variety of skill levels. Art I is a studio based course. This means students will make a variety of artworks inspired by major modern art movements including Impressionism, Cubism, Surrealism, and Pop Art. Students will learn to draw using the grid method and techniques for drawing from observation. Students will learn basic color theory by examining color schemes and working with acrylic paint. Students will participate in critical discussions about their own work and the artwork of contemporary and historical artists. Students are expected to complete weekly sketchbook assignments.

**Academic Content Standards Addressed:** Producing/Performing (PR), Responding/Reflecting (RE), Perceiving/Knowing (PE)

**Course:** Ceramics I **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Randi Channel  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Fine Art Credit  
**Sections:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** MWF  
**Fee:** \$15.00 to cover the cost of materials

This course is an intro to various hand-building techniques, including, pinch, coil and slab. Students will become familiar with terminology associated with three-dimensional design the production of functional and non-functional pottery, as well as sculptural objects. Students will participate in critical discussions about their own art work as well as contemporary and historical art work. Students will also learn about the technical, historical, aesthetic, cultural and contemporary concerns of clay workers.

**Academic Content Standards Addressed:** Producing/Performing (PR), Responding/Reflecting (RE), Perceiving/Knowing (PE)

**Course:** Ceramics II **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Randi Channel  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Fine Art Credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF  
**Fee:** \$15.00 to cover the cost of materials

Ceramics I is a prerequisite for this course. Students will further refine and build upon the skills they learned in Ceramics I. Students will learn how to create armatures for larger, more ambitious work. Students will learn how to create plaster molds and use slip casting techniques. Students will work more intensely with a variety of glaze techniques. Students will be expected to develop original ideas and execute them through the creation of preliminary sketches and original templates. Students will participate in critical discussions about their own artwork as well as contemporary and historical art work.

**Academic Content Standards Addressed:** Producing/Performing (PR), Responding/Reflecting (RE), Perceiving/Knowing (PE)

# Foreign Language

**Course:** Spanish I **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Sarai Correa  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Cultural Studies  
**Sections:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** MTWTHF

This course covers the fundamentals of Spanish: conversation, basic writing, listening, vocabulary building, grammar and culture. Students at this level are expected to try to communicate regularly in Spanish with the teacher and classmates.

**Course:** Spanish II **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Sarai Correa  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Cultural Studies  
**Sections:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

***Prerequisite - Successful completion of Spanish I***

The students will acquire intermediate Spanish skills in order to continue to develop the skills needed in studying a second language. The students will be exposed to Spanish culture and civilization as well as be introduced to the advanced Spanish language skills with an emphasis on communication in addition to comprehension, reading and writing, building upon their previous knowledge of the language.

# Mathematics

**Course:** Algebra 1 **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Zach Franklin  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Math Credit  
**Sections:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** MTWTHF

This course will study numerous math topics including: Use of variables in the operations, concepts in linear growth (slope and intercepts), distance, rate, and time, and some coverage of exponents and polynomials. Second semester will continue work on slope intercept form and also contain some integration of probability and statistics as well as systems of equations.



**Course:** Algebra 1 **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Derrick Creque  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Math Credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MTWTHF

This course will study numerous math topics including: Use of variables in the operations, concepts in linear growth (slope and intercepts), distance, rate, and time, and some coverage of exponents and polynomials. Second semester will continue work on slope intercept form and also contain some integration of probability and statistics as well as systems of equations.

**Course:** Geometry **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Derrick Creque  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Math Credit  
**Sections:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

No subject is more important in all of high school than geometry. At least, this is my opinion. No other course more directly teaches logical thinking both inductive and deductive forms of reasoning. All other disciplines use logic and reasoning but these courses do not focus on logic itself. With training in geometry, you can learn how to prove statements, make conjectures, and even critique logical arguments of others. In short, you will learn how to think. We will start with studying inductive and deductive reasoning. Then we will start defining the objects we want to study. Then we will construct various geometry objects making observations and developing conjectures. Finally we will attempt to prove these conjectures to develop theorems.

**Course:** Algebra II **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** RJ Larry  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Math Credit  
**Sections:** 2  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

In this course we will explore a variety of topics including linear functions, quadratic functions, inverse functions, radicals, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. Students will build upon their understanding of functions and the real numbers from previous math classes and they will use and enhance the logic and critical thinking skills that were the focus of Geometry. Throughout the year students will explore various real world situations and problems. They will learn how to use sophisticated mathematics to better understand and approach these problems. Access to a TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator is strongly encouraged for this course.

**Course:** Algebra II **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** RJ Larry  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1.0 Math Credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MTWTHF

In this course we will explore a variety of topics including linear functions, quadratic functions, inverse functions, radicals, exponential functions, logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. Students will build upon their understanding of functions and the real numbers from previous math classes and they will use and enhance the logic and critical thinking skills that were the focus of Geometry. Throughout the year students will explore various real world situations and problems. They will learn how to use sophisticated mathematics to better understand and approach these problems. Access to a TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator is strongly encouraged for this course.

**Course:** Understanding Money **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** RJ Larry  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Math Credit  
(Fulfills Fin. Lit. Graduation Requirement)  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

Ever wonder why some people are able to make their money last while others struggle from paycheck to paycheck? Getting an education in personal finance can help make the difference. We will explore a wide variety of topics from investing, retirement, budgeting, to economic theory.

## **Science**

**Course:** Physical Science **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Andrew Shields  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1 Physical Science Credit  
**Sections:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** MWF  
***Class Fee - \$15 lab/supply fee***

This class will offer you an introduction to high school level science. Our focus will take us through the key topics of Matter, Chemical Reactions, Forces and Motion, and Energy. To study these topics, we will be devoting ourselves to looking at the world through a

creative/critical eye, with an emphasis on science as a problem solving mechanism. We will complete several large projects, and there will be ample opportunities for you to choose topics that are to your liking. When you have completed this course, you will be prepared with the essential skills and knowledge for moving forward in your science education at The Graham School.

\*This course must be completed in order to take the Biology/Earth Science courses offered\*

**Course:** Biology **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Genevieve  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1 Biology Credit  
**Sections:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** MTWThF  
**Prerequisite - Successful completion of Physical Science**  
**Class Fee - \$10 lab/supply fee**

Biology is devoted to the study of living things and their processes. Throughout the year we will explore biology as a process, cell structure and function, genetics and heredity, evolution, diversity of living organisms and their ecological roles. This course will use authentic tasks, issues, and problems that make frequent use of human examples to engage you in the fundamental concepts of biology. You and I will become co-learners, co-planners, and co-producers as we refine our skills in collaboration, problem solving, and reasoning.

\*This course must be completed in order to take the Advanced Science courses offered\*

**Course:** Neurological Disorders **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Genevieve Adkins  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Advanced Science Credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF  
**Prerequisite - Successful completion of Biology, unless pre-approved by instructor.**  
**Class Fee - \$10 lab/supply fee**

**Got Brains?!** This course focuses on how our brains work, and on how disease & our life choices can actually change our brains. The Neurological Disorders class is organized around five key questions: What do our brains need to do? What are the building blocks of our brains? How do our neurons communicate with each other? How do our neurons work together to

control behaviors? How do our choices change our brains? These questions will guide our investigation of the nervous system from the building blocks of our brains to how our brains control behavior. You will explore each of these questions through lecture, activities and a lab which includes dissection of a brain. Then, for a final project, you will use everything you have learned to educate others on how the different choices we make can change the brain.

**Course:** Wide World of Weather **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Andrew Shields  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Advanced Science Credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF  
**Class Fee - \$15 lab/supply fee**  
***Prerequisite - Successful completion of Physical Science and Biology, unless pre-approved by instructor.***

This course will cover a wide range of topics that are devoted to understanding the basics of weather science. We will look at how meteorologists study weather patterns and how they collect data to predict what is going to happen. Students will be experimenting on how to make their own instruments for recording the weather, and look at the history of weather patterns in this part of the world. We will also spend time studying some of the major weather related natural disasters that occur around the world. This will include floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, and other major events. Be prepared to strap on your winter gear, as we will be sampling the exciting Ohio weather at its finest (that of course includes going outside to play in the snow!). Throughout the semester you will be completing several research focused papers as well as a multitude of hands on projects.

## **Social Studies**

**Course:** Modern America **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** Johnny Ginter  
**Academic Credit Area:** 1 Social Studies  
(Fulfills American History Graduation Requirement)  
**Sections:** 3  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

The America that we live in did not happen by accident. It is the product of hundreds of years of conflict, debate, achievement, and work. In previous classes you might've learned about the Founding Fathers, the Louisiana Purchase, and the Civil War. And while all of those topics

remain important, Modern America tells the story of how the United States transformed from a mostly agricultural society with little world influence into an urban and diverse powerhouse that now stands as the lone superpower in the world. It's a crazy, winding story of how we got where we are today, and Modern America will help you make sense of it all. In this class we will use primary source documents to learn about the history of the US while gaining historical writing skills along the way, and at the end of this class every student will be able to call themselves historians.

**Course:** **Your Government** **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** **Johnny Ginter**  
**Academic Credit Area:** **0.5 Social Studies**  
(Fulfills Government Graduation Requirement)  
**Sections:** **1: 11th & 12th grade**  
**Meeting Days:** **MWF**

In Your Government, you (yes you) will learn not just how the government works and why they do what they do, but you will also learn from the lessons of the past and work towards making your own ideal form of government. In the process of learning about the founding documents, how a bill becomes a law, and how presidents are elected, you will be making your own version of these big ideas in American government, and hopefully making improvements or big changes with your own ideas along the way. In the meantime, there will be readings, written assignments, smaller projects, and quizzes and tests to help you along the way. If you've ever been interested in how and why your government does things, this is the class for you.

**Course:** **Modern World History** **FULL YEAR**  
**Instructor:** **Gheon Selemon**  
**Academic Credit Area:** **1 Social Studies**  
**Sections:** **3**  
**Meeting Days:** **MWF**

In Modern World History, one will learn different skills and strategies in order to dive deep in the vast history that is known in our world. Some things we will explore are the major belief systems, different dynasties, revolutions, and many more topics.

**Course:** African American History **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Gheon Selemon  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Social Studies  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

In African American History, a student will discover the challenges presented towards societal issues that occur in history post slavery. Students can learn more about African American Culture and discover through Primary and Secondary resources the impact that African American culture has within modern America.

## **TECHNOLOGY**

**Course:** Exploring Technology **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Zach Franklin  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Tech credit  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** MWF

Most of us are familiar with computer technology but this is a course designed to help improve on that knowledge. We will focus our learning around becoming better typists, and doing real world project based assignments through Microsoft office and google docs.

# Tuesday/Thursday Expedition Courses

These Expedition courses will be taught for students in the 10th grade. Over the course of the year, students will choose two out of the three Expedition options, one for each semester. Students in the 9th, 11th and 12th grades will not be signing up for these courses.

**Course:** Statistics of Inequality **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** RJ Larry & Megan McCormack  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Math  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** TTH

In Statistics of Inequality students will learn how to use statistics to describe real world data by completing two case studies. In each case study students will examine how different groups in the US are represented in different sectors of society. Along the way students will read "How to Lie with Statistics" to supplement the case studies in order to better understand how the media, governments, and corporations can use statistics to attempt to mislead or influence their audiences.

**Course:** Ethical vs. Just: A Personal Narrative **SEMESTER**  
**Instructor:** Genevieve Adkins & Johnny Ginter  
**Academic Credit Area:** 0.5 Social Studies  
**Sections:** 1  
**Meeting Days:** TTH

In this course we will explore the path of moral consciousness versus the path of legal justice. Using three case studies, as well as related trips and experts in the field, we will analyze times when ethical choices don't seem to align with societal laws. Through *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* we will first explore issues of Informed Consent and Privacy in the healthcare and scientific community. We will then view the movie *13th* to examine the issue of "legal" slavery as outlined in the thirteenth amendment. And finally we will investigate the clash of ethics and laws that come into play with the migration of people (legal, illegal, and refugees). Students will then interview an individual in one of these areas about a time they had to choose between their ethics or the law. The expedition will culminate in the creation of a blog and a podcast based on the research and interview.