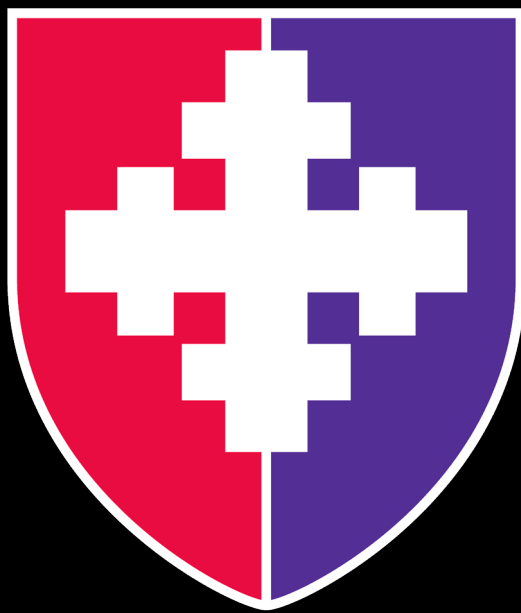
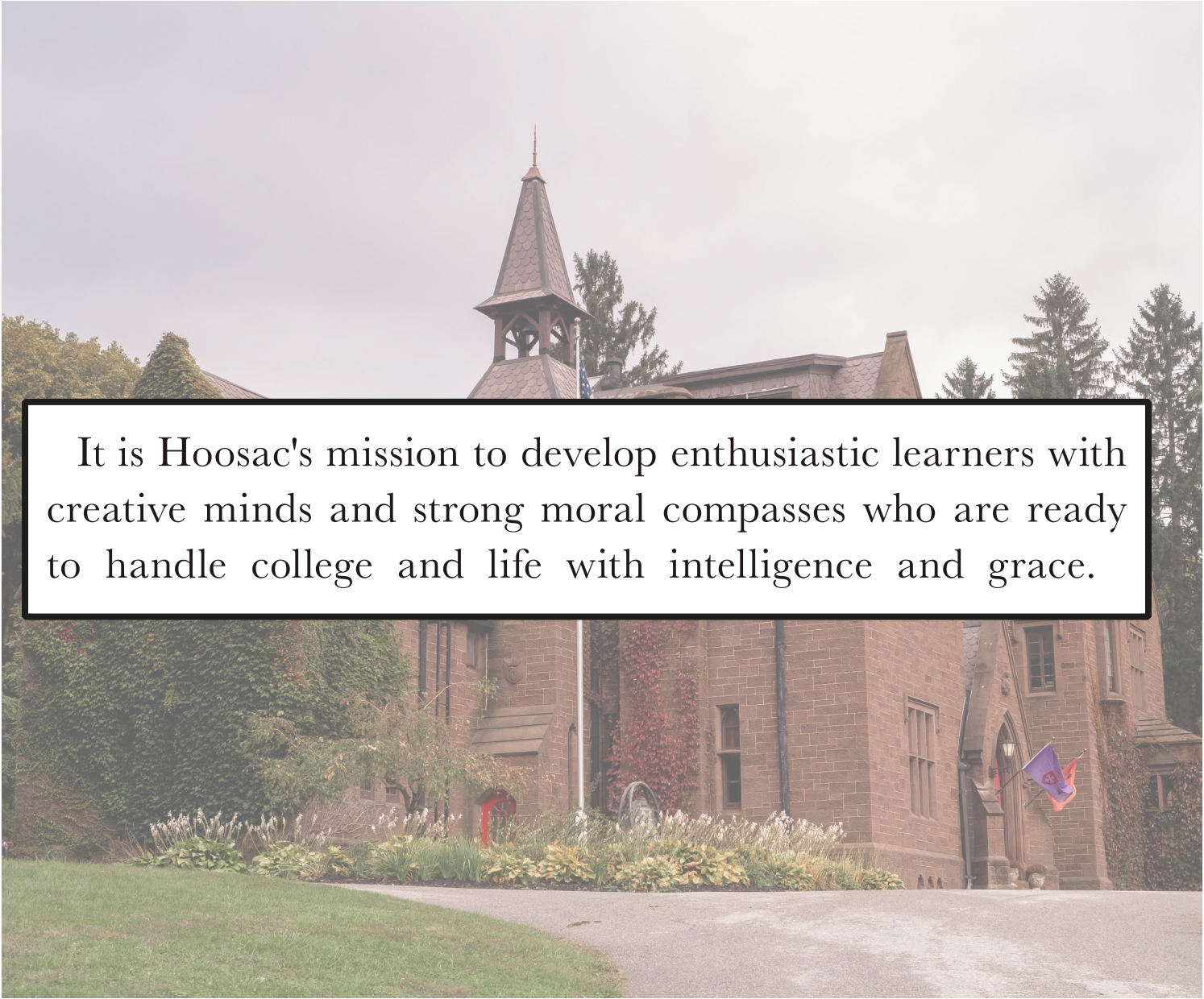


# Hoosac School

## Course Catalog





It is Hoosac's mission to develop enthusiastic learners with creative minds and strong moral compasses who are ready to handle college and life with intelligence and grace.

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# INTRODUCTION

At Hoosac School, we strive to create a learning environment that is comprehensive in scope while recognizing the individual student. Our approach includes mastery and collaborative learning and student-centered classrooms. As a college preparatory school, Hoosac offers a broad-based curriculum in the five major academic areas and encourages all students to explore the arts throughout their time here.

Learning in our classes is accomplished through class discussions, hands-on projects, experiments, papers, and presentations. Every faculty member is dedicated to helping all our students succeed by assisting them in acquiring the critical thinking skills that will serve them well now and in the future. Our curriculum is constantly under review in an effort to remain current and relevant, and to provide our students with a dynamic education. We concentrate on educating the whole student because we want our graduates to be responsible, ethical, involved members of society. Our ultimate goal is to create a caring atmosphere that allows our students to imagine their future and realize their goals.

On any given day, a discussion begun in an Ethics class may find its way into that evening's dinner conversation in the dining hall. A biblical passage read in morning chapel could easily become part of a lecture in a British Literature class that same afternoon. A tutoring session may start in a classroom, but it could continue on the walk back to the dorms after an afternoon athletic event. Ideas, discussion, and discovery are the heart of the academic experience at Hoosac, and they shape every part of our day.

Because of our frequent and thorough monitoring of each student's academic growth, our commitment to nurturing the academic individuality of each student, and our fervent belief that there is no such thing as a student who can't succeed, we pride ourselves in having created an atmosphere where students can discover their academic strengths and overcome their academic weaknesses.

Different students learn in different ways and at different rates. In our adherence to the principles of Mastery Teaching, our educational philosophy at Hoosac embraces a diversity of learning styles in our academic community. Because Mastery Teaching begins by identifying a student's academic needs and then creates an academic experience that meets those needs, it is a method especially successful with students who have been academically labeled, students who have been overlooked in larger academic settings, and students who have yet to discover the academic success they can and should have.



# GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

English	4 years	4 credits
Math	3 years	3 credits
Science	3 years	3 credits
History	3 years	3 credits (one US History)
Ethics	1 year	1 credit
Health	1 Trimester	1/2 credit
Fine Arts	6 Trimesters	2 credits
Foreign Language*	2 years	2 credits
Electives	-	5 credits

## Grading System

The marking system is based on a scale of 60-100; 60 is the lowest passing grade.

A+ 100	B+ 87 - 89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67 - 69
A 94 - 99	B 84 - 86	C 74-76	D 64 - 66
A- 90 - 93	B- 80 - 83	C- 70-73	D- 60 - 63

To pass a year-long course, the average of the three-trimester grades must be above 60.

## Grading and Class Change Policies

A full-year course is equivalent of 1 academic credit (3 trimesters)

Students will be registered for courses by the Dean of Academics, any class change requests must be submitted directly to the Dean of Academics by the end of the 2nd week of each trimester.

In consultation with the Dean of Academics, each faculty member establishes the relative grading configuration for participation, attendance, homework, quizzes, tests, research papers, exams, etc which is distributed to each student during the first week of classes.

A year-long course may be dropped after the first 2 weeks of the academic year only by recommendation of the instructor and the Dean of Academics. Credit will not be received for the course, and the class will be indicated as withdrawn on the student's transcript.

A student who fails a required course must make up for that failure either in Summer School or the following year. Credit will not be given until the failure is remedied.

*\*ESL students or students of a foreign language are not required, but still recommended, to complete the foreign language component prior to graduation.*

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



*Christopher Uhl - Head of English Department*

Our approach to the study of English is threefold. Our curriculum seeks to develop the student's ability to think, speak and write through the practices of critical reading and literary analysis, discussion and public speaking, and various modes of writing. Students are placed in English courses that best serve their academic and intellectual needs based on diagnostic writing samples as well as a meticulous assessment of the student's reading and writing experience to-date. Because we tailor our teaching to the specific needs and strengths of the individual student, the English classroom at Hoosac is often a place where the less confident student first overcomes the belief that he or she cannot learn to write. Yet, it is that same commitment to individual attention that often allows the more advanced student to begin to overcome persistent obstacles in the development of his or her writing.

Outside of the classroom, the English Department is a vital and active part of academic and creative life at Hoosac, regularly organizing events such as the annual school-wide oratory contest, essay contests, and student-faculty creative writing workshops. The English Department at Hoosac also, twice yearly, oversees the production of a student literary magazine, guides our student-run Peer Writing Assistance Program, and hosts regular guest speakers and guest led workshops. In addition to our work within Hoosac, membership in various professional organizations has allowed us a greater presence in the larger academic community, opportunities for professional development in our field and a means of staying informed of current issues in college preparatory English education.

## The Literary Experience

This is a required course for students in Form III. The Literary Experience provides an introduction to discussing and writing about literature. More specifically, the course guides students through the literary experience from the pre-critical to the analytical and evaluative. Along with intensive training in standard grammar and mechanics, students learn to use several methods of composition including expository, descriptive, persuasive and narrative.

## Literary Genres

A required course for Form IV, Literary Genres develops composition skills and expands reading skills and tastes. Students review the principles of grammar and mechanics with special emphasis on structure, transitions, unity and clarity, as well as beginning to make use of more sophisticated rhetorical and stylistic tools. They refine their literary skills as they study vocabulary and evaluate literary nuances that differentiate the genres of poetry, drama and narrative. Speaking and listening skills receive attention in many classroom activities.

## Traditions in American Literature

This is a required course for Form V. The survey course follows the rise of a unique national identity throughout its literature. This class traces the development of American literature from its Puritan roots through the beginnings of Modernity in the early 20th century. The introduction of literary history helps the student understand how literature was not only shaped by historical events, but also helped to shape those events. Students write a variety of papers, record their thoughts and interpretations in journals, and make many class presentations.

## Traditions in British Literature

This course is designed to prepare the VIth Form student for the reading, writing and research demands they will experience in their college work. The course traces English Literature from its Anglo-Saxon roots through modernity and also introduces students to the myriad cultural and philosophical ideas that accompany the evolution of English literature. Students continue to advance their writing and speaking with the continued practice of various modes of composition as well as a variety of individual and group presentations.

## AP Literature and Composition

### **Prerequisite: Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor**

Our approach in the AP Curriculum is threefold. We engage in the experience of literature (emotional and pre-critical responses), the interpretation of literature (using critical analysis to arrive at the multiple meanings of a work), and the evaluation of literature (determining a piece's cultural and social significance.) This class is recommended only for students prepared and willing to complete copious amounts of reading and writing throughout the school year. Essays will be assigned weekly and will reflect the level of rigor set by the College Board. All students will take the AP Examination in Literature and Composition in May.



# AP Language and Composition

## **Prerequisite: Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor**

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text from many disciplines and historical periods.

## **Academic Writing**

Academic Writing provides intensive instruction in all phases of the writing process, including pre-writing, research, writing, revision and publication. The first trimester provides a grounding in grammar, mechanics, style and diction. While continuing to develop stylistic control and argumentation techniques, the second half of the course introduces students to seven essay paradigms: description, the personal narrative, the compare-contrast essay, the cause and effect essay, analysis, classification, and the definition essay. Students also regularly engage in peer editing work intended to teach them to constructively critique the work of their fellow students as well as their own. Throughout the year, supplemental readings provide students with diverse examples of various forms of published writing.

## **Creative Writing**

Creative writing provides an introduction to various aspects of developing creativity in regards to text. A writing workshop that examines various genres such as poetry, fiction, and non-fiction. Writing prompts and timed exercises are utilized to encourage different methods of brainstorming and story construction. This course is designed with the goal of inspiring students to develop original pieces and ideas.

## **Ethics - Requirement for VI form**

This course is an introduction to many of the moral and ethical questions that serve as the cornerstone of western intellectual tradition. Through the preparation of primary and supplemental readings, group discussion and analysis of those readings, and many essays and class presentations, students will begin to learn to navigate the richly complex world of morality and, in the process, become acquainted with the major schools of Ethical thought including Contractualism, Egoism, Hedonism, Naturalism, Existentialism, Kantianism, and Utilitarianism.

# English as a Second Language (ESL)

With students from over 40 different countries, Hoosac's approach to our foreign students has resulted in a strong focus on our ESL department. Our three-year program helps prepare students for enrollment in classes dedicated for native English speakers. Upon arrival, students will be assessed on their current abilities to ensure proper placement in ESL classes. In an effort to meet the students where they are academically, and in the interest of our Mastery Approach to education, students may be placed in any combination of the following year long classes at any given time.

Outside of the classroom, Hoosac students can anticipate a very active role in student life, ensuring a strong understanding of the English language that will prepare them for life outside of Hoosac.

## First Year ESL

**Language Fundamentals** Focuses on basic sentence construction, emphasizing grammar, vocabulary, spelling and composition. Basic grammar is presented in interesting contexts that are relevant to students' lives and then recycles the language and context throughout each activity. Learners gain knowledge and skills in both language and contextual subject matter. The course will also develop speaking and pronunciation skills.

**Language and American Culture** Focuses on enriching vocabulary and knowledge of culture through American literature and history.

**Environmental Science** Offers students adaptive instruction in environmental science while building English proficiency. Lessons cover topics in life, earth and physical science, using a highly visual approach to develop necessary skills, foster comprehension of key concepts and develop the student's mastery of academic language. The curriculum is specifically designed to help build language and communication skills through hands-on activities.

**Survey of American History I** Explores the History of the American continents from indigenous and colonial beginnings through the post-Civil War reconstruction period, from approximately 1600-1890. The course emphasizes the role of the Americas in the commerce and politics of the trans-Atlantic world, the westward expansion of the United States, and the political and social consequences of the anti-slavery movement and the Civil War. Students learn vocabulary and sentence structure that is appropriate to analyzing and writing about history.

## Second Year ESL

**Language Arts** Focuses on sentence structure and paragraph composition. Increasingly complex grammatical constructions are presented in various topical contexts. Students will practice analyzing and writing compound sentences and sentences with subordinate clauses. Students will learn complex verb tenses, including the present and past perfect, as well as active and passive voices. Students will continue to develop their speaking and pronunciation skills.

**Applied Language skills in American Literature** Students continue to enrich vocabulary and knowledge of culture focusing on developing language skills through the examination and analysis of American Literature. Students will be tasked with writing essays, participation in class discussion and giving oral presentations.

**Natural World** Engages students through academic readings on stimulating topics from the fields of natural science and biology. Topics include the water cycle, plant and animal life, and the human body. Students develop important skills such as reading for the main idea, reading for speed, understanding vocabulary in context and note-taking. By completing writing assignments, students build academic writing skills and incorporate what they have learned. The listening component focuses on developing student's listening and discussion skills.

Survey of American History II Continues students' study of American history from the previous year. Modern American History traces the development of the social, political and economic institutions of the United States from the onset of the Gilded Age in approximately 1890 to the close of the 20th century. Topics include progressive era reforms, the Great Depression, the World Wars and their impact on the United States, the Cold War, the civil rights movement and the rise of contemporary American culture.

## Third Year ESL

**Language and the Humanities** The third year of the ESL curriculum serves as a bridge between the ESL curriculum and coursework designed for native English speakers. It also prepares students for the TOEFL exam, an important step in the college admissions process for ELL students. Language and the Humanities utilizes a variety of authentic, non-adaptive texts, both fiction and non-fiction, to facilitate reading and writing practice. Students are asked to read, write, critique and revise as they would in a native English classroom. Advanced grammatical structures, such as defining and non-defining clauses, participle phrases and reported speech are emphasized.

# Lexia®

Lexia is our diagnostic tool used to assess all of our new students. Lexia is additionally utilized at any time for a student in-need. Hoosac implements Lexia learning to provide additional online practice of the English language, administered and overseen both during and outside of the classroom.



**HISTORY  
DEPARTMENT**



The study of history can be said to offer a culture two distinct ways of seeing: a window, giving the student a view of the past, and a mirror, presenting a reflection of a personal/national/global identity formed and informed by an understanding of the past. This duality of perspective constitutes the core philosophy of Hoosac's History Department.



The student of history at Hoosac is exposed to this dual perspective across the range of courses offered by Dr. Mark Buckholtz (Former Yale University Professor) and the History Department. The exploration of history through readings, research, lectures, projects, and trips is directly linked to the examination of the world today through ongoing discussions of current global events, social movements and political trends. The international character of Hoosac's classrooms affords a variety of perspectives that add resonance to and expand the understanding of history as it affects the various regions, cultures and personal interests of each inhabitant of this planet. 13

## **World Cultures** (Recommended for II and III form)

This course presents a survey of major cultural regions and their historic development in the world. There is a particular emphasis of western civilization. The major political, economic, social, cultural and religious institutions of each region are studied in relation to historical themes. In this course students will analyze the unique ways in which different civilizations have satisfied similar wants and needs.

## **Early American History**

This course presents a survey of the foundation and development of the United States of America. In this course the strands of citizenship, history, geography and economics are woven into the student knowledge base. The students are also given numerous opportunities to develop and sharpen their problem-solving and critical thinking skills. Major topics of the course include the Exploration/Colonization, the American Revolution, Constitutional Government, Westward Expansion, and the Growth of Democracy, States Rights and Slavery.

## **Modern European History**

This is the last component of the study of World History. This course picks up where World Cultures left off, after the French Revolution. This class will examine the following materials: international order and diplomacy, communism, fascism, Third World problems, international economics, international terrorism, religious fundamentalism and other contemporary issues. This class will examine how to write a research paper and how to cite materials for a research paper. Students will be required write a research paper as a final project of this course.

## **Modern U.S. History and Government** (Recommended for V and VI form)

This is the last component of the study of U.S. History. This course picks up where Early American History left off, at the beginning of the Civil War. Students will examine reconstruction, the role of national government, WWI and isolationism, WWII, becoming a world power, suburbanization/immigration, reform/rights movements, issues of communism and Cold War. This course will have a required Research Paper.

## **Latin American History**

A general introduction to the civilizations, populations, economies, societies and politics of Latin America. This class will investigate all the different advances of civilization often not explored in other high school classes. Students will be able to determine why each civilization developed as it did and the great discoveries each country created. Finally, students should be able to determine the role Europe played in the development of modern Latin America.

## **Race, Reparations and Reform**

This course will survey the social and political contours of African American campaigns to secure restitution in the United States. This course will take a look at social justice, reconciliation and the political economy. It will examine the differing strategies that African Americans have devised historically to secure land, and educational and voter protection in the United States. The course will also explore how social scientists and public policymakers have framed the issue of restitution throughout United States history.

## AP United States History

**Prerequisite** - Approval from the Dean of Academics and course instructor

AP US History is a rigorous, college level course examining the social, economic and political history of the United States. Attention will be given to multiple perspectives, including those of historically marginalized groups. Students will be responsible for keeping and organizing notes from a college level textbook. These will be supplemented by primary source materials including decisions by the Supreme Court, political speeches, public and personal documents, and literary texts. Students will take the SAT II in U.S. History and may also choose to take the AP Exam.

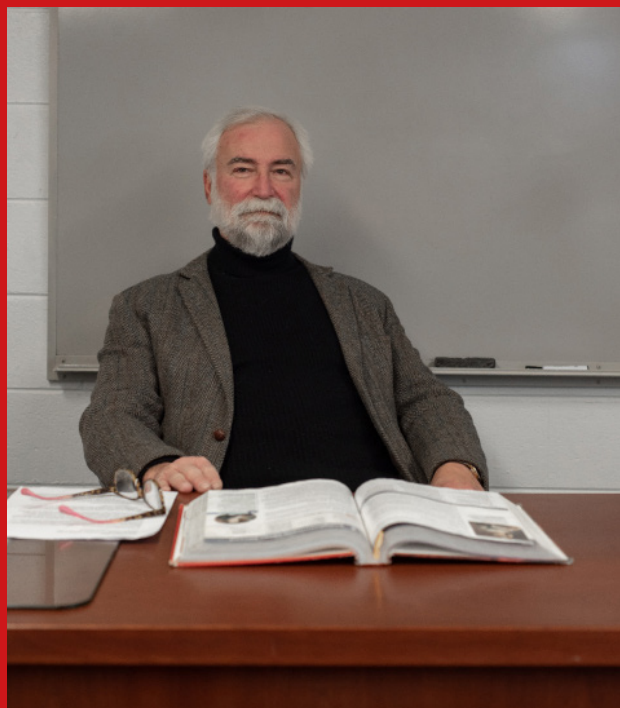
## Honors European History

**Prerequisite** - Approval from the Dean of Academics and course instructor

Honors European History focuses on developing students' abilities to think conceptually about European history from approximately 1450 to the present and apply historical thinking skills as they learn about the past. Five themes of equal importance — interaction of Europe and the world, poverty and prosperity, objective knowledge and subjective visions, states and other institutions of power, and individual and society — provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places.

## Ancient Mythology: Year Course 1 credit

Ancient Mythology will explore and examine the myths of ancient civilizations, particularly those of Greece and Rome, through the close reading of original sources as well as modern theory and scholarship. Students will work to gain a critical understanding of mythology in relation to ancient cultural values, social mores, and religious beliefs that can also be applied to modern narratives. In class, analytical thinking and creative discussion are essential to discovering the structure and importance of mythology and why it has had such a lasting influence on today's society.



*Dr. Mark Buckholtz - Head of History Department*

**SCIENCE  
DEPARTMENT**





The Science Department curriculum is designed to encourage science literacy and understanding. The extensive natural environment that makes up the Hoosac School campus supplies a unique classroom for just such understanding. Science is no longer just something in a textbook or laboratory. This special setting allows students to experience a sense of discovery that many have never known.

The Science Department works to produce students with the necessary tools to move on to the next phase of their education. As a student fulfills his or her science requirements the ground work is laid for further study at the college level.



## **Earth Science (Lab Course)**

Earth Science is an introductory science course touching on topics such as geology, oceanography, weather, earthquakes and volcanoes. Hands-on projects that require basic Earth Science is an introductory science course touching on topics such as geology and laboratory skills, make this course fun as well as educational. This course includes a lab-based component.

## **Environmental Science**

Environmental Science will show the connection between science, technology and society. Students will apply prior scientific knowledge to current environmental issues, and will become better informed people in society and decision-makers. Students will relate global, national and local issues to concepts they learn in the environmental science classroom.

## **Biology (Lab Course)**

The secrets of life are revealed through class and laboratory work in Biology. There is special emphasis on cellular structure and function, life processes and genetics and heredity. Current events in Biology are analyzed and applied to concepts covered. Students are required to participate in the management and upkeep of Hoosac's greenhouse, where numerous lessons and activities will take place over the course of the academic year. This course includes a lab-based component.

## **Chemistry (Lab Course)**

Chemistry is an in-depth investigation of matter, structures, reactions and changes designed to prepare the students to continue their studies in science. From the basics of atomic structure to a deeper understanding of the matter-energy relationships associated with a wide range of physical and chemical changes, students will use many tools to gain an understanding of the chemical world. This course includes a lab-based component

## **Physics (Lab Course)**

The Physics course helps students recognize the nature and scope of physics and its relationship to the other sciences. Students will learn about basic topics such as motion, forces, energy, momentum, heat and heat transfer, waves, electricity, and magnetism. The mathematics prerequisite skills are based on middle school mathematics topics such as data analysis, measurement, scientific notation, ratio and proportion, and algebraic expressions. This course includes a lab-based component.

## **Anatomy and Physiology**

Anatomy and physiology is a course that will enable students to develop an understanding of the relationships between the structures and functions of the human body. Students will learn the mechanisms for maintaining homeostasis within the human body, as well as practical applications of the material learned in class. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an in-depth understanding of principles of anatomy and physiology and their interrelationships.

## **Exercise Science**

This course includes an introduction to the physiology of exercise. A description of cardiovascular, pulmonary, muscular, endocrine, neural, and metabolic responses to acute and chronic exercise. Addresses body composition and clinical exercise physiology. This course takes an in-depth look at the essentials of strength training and conditioning as outlined by the National Strength and Conditioning Association (NSCA)

## Nutrition

This course covers the biochemistry of foods and nutrients with consideration of the physiological effects of specialized diets for specific biological needs. Topics include cultural, religious, and economic factors that influence a person's acceptance of food, as well as nutrient requirements of the various life stages. Upon completion, students should be able to identify the functions and sources of nutrients, the mechanisms of digestion, and the nutritional requirements of all age groups.

## Ethical Science (1 Trimester Elective)

Using history, this course addresses some of the above questions and attempts to enrich the understanding of ethics and social responsibility in science, technology, and medicine. It aims to teach students how to deal effectively with issues pertaining to human/animal experiments, peer review, paper authorship, bias, conflict of interest and other big career items not only for the time being but also for life, as these are in a state of continuous flux.

## AP Biology

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

AP Biology is designed for students with exceptional abilities and high achievement levels. This course involves lecture-discussion, presentations and laboratory activities. The course includes interrelationships of living organisms, levels of biological organization, human biology, social implications, biochemistry, ecology and genetics. Extensive laboratory work and problem solving are essential components. *Students registered in this course will be required to take the accompanying AP exam in May.*

## AP Physics

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

AP Physics 1 is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course. Students cultivate their understanding of Physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. *Students registered in this course will be required to take the accompanying AP exam in May.*

## AP Chemistry

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

AP Chemistry is an introductory college-level chemistry course. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based lab investigations as they explore the four Big Ideas: scale, proportion, and quantity; structure and properties of substances; transformations; and energy. *Students registered in this course will be required to take the accompanying AP exam in May.*

## Health

The Health class is designed to meet the required criteria as set by New York State Department of Education. It is designed to give the student a better understanding of the factors affecting their health, both emotionally and physically.

**MATH  
DEPARTMENT**





The focus of the Mathematics Department is to allow all students to acquire a foundation in mathematics that will serve them well in their continuing education beyond Hoosac School.

Students are encouraged to think logically and develop sound reasoning techniques. Within the course structure there is an emphasis on problem-solving strategies that will be useful to all students in other areas of life. The Mathematics program at Hoosac strives to stimulate and foster mathematical skills in a way that meets the varied needs of all our students.

## Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a preparation course for the study of Algebra I. This course may serve as either a course in remediation or for the reinforcement. It strengthens skills and re-teaches concepts and computational skills necessary for the successful study of a course in Algebra I.

## Integrated Math

This course is designed for the student who needs a little more support and a slower paced class. This course will cover most intermediate algebra skills and will also include introductory topics in Geometry. Real world applications will be used to help the students understand how and why math works. This course will give students the foundation for math they will need to be successful in the future.

## Algebra 1

Algebra 1 topics include recognizing and developing patterns using tables, graphs and equations. In addition, students will explore operations on algebraic expressions, apply mathematical properties to algebraic equations. Students will solve problems using equations, graphs and tables to investigate linear relationships.

## Algebra 2

Algebra 2 is a continuation of mathematics that includes the study of more complex forms of functions that involve inequalities, absolute values, quadratic equations, circles and ellipses and some trigonometry.

## Geometry

Some of the topics covered in this course are plane and solid geometry, triangles, polygons, parallel lines, angles and their measures, and the calculation of area, surface area, and volume of two and three dimensional figures. Formal proofs and applied problems are used in the exploration of these topics.

## Advanced Algebra

College Algebra includes fundamental topics covered in Algebra 2 with a more careful look at the mathematical details and a greater emphasis on the concept of function. It covers quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions, equations and inequalities; the use of matrices and determinants in solving linear systems of equations, solving non-linear systems; sequences and series

## Precalculus

This course will cover the following topics in an effort to prepare students for Calculus; polynomial, rational, root, inverse, exponential and logarithmic functions, analytical geometry, matrices, trigonometric functions and their applications and sequences and series.

## Precalculus Honors

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

This is a faster paced version of Precalculus that also includes limits, derivatives and integrals.

## Statistics

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 2 and Geometry

This course will cover frequency distributions, central tendency, variation, probability, binomial distributions, hypothesis testing, correlation and regressions.

## AP Statistics

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 2, Geometry, and Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

This course will cover frequency distributions, central tendency, variation, probability, binomial distributions, hypothesis testing, correlation and regressions.

## AP Calculus AB

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

This Calculus course is designed for the advanced math student who has successfully completed courses through Precalculus. Topics include derivatives and their rules and applications, integrals and their applications, vectors, partial derivatives, multiple integrals and vector calculus.

## AP Calculus BC

**Prerequisite:** Approval by the Dean of Academics and course instructor

Calculus BC includes all of the topics covered in Calculus AB, as well as convergence tests for series, the use of parametric equations, polar functions, including arc length in polar coordinates, calculating curve length in parametric and function equations, integration by parts, improper integrals, differential equations for logistic growth, and using partial fractions to integrate rational functions, models, and the use of interactive computer models.

## Linear Algebra

The principal topics of Linear Algebra include vectors, matrices, determinants, linear transformations, eigenvalues, eigenvectors, real vector spaces, proofs, and selected applications. This is usually taken as a sophomore year in college.

**BUSINESS  
DEPARTMENT**





The Hoosac Business program offers students unique courses that build a strong business foundation, explore managerial principles, and establish personal finance lessons. The curriculums have been designed to engage and reflect our students' diverse experiences and talents, whether a student is interested in international, domestic, or specific areas of enterprise. Furthermore, the classes are tailored to promote the integration of practical applications with scholarship.

Hoosac students who take these courses will also have ample opportunity to serve their community, discover the possibilities for an internship, and join a business club that will help hone business acumen and expose students to real-world events.

*Kevin Robichaud, Dean of Students & Head of Business Department*

## **Personal Finance**

This course is about financial issues of our times. Several of these issues are usually thought of as being inherently noneconomic. Others provide illustrations of the core of economic science. Many are controversial and thus are likely to evoke noneconomic reactions to what we have to say. However, the one feature that ties all of the issues together is that they illustrate the power of economics in explaining the world around us.

## **Marketing**

This is an introductory marketing class designed for business-minded students interested in knowing the secrets to business success. This course will provide a basic understanding of the fundamental marketing process with an emphasis toward competing in a free enterprise system. Major components consist of marketing principles, product development, pricing, channel management and sales promotion.

## **Business Math**

In this course, we will be discussing and practicing the practical mathematical skills necessary to succeed in modern business study and practice. The aim of this course is to prepare students with the skills necessary to complete meaningful mathematical analysis and computation to better understand and function in a modern business environment.

## **Media Industries**

The overall goal of this class is to foster media literacy, defined as our ability to critically analyze and evaluate media messages. In order to pursue this goal, the class will focus on a series of historical moments that defined the role played by various media industries not only in the United States but also within the broader international context. We will analyze the effects that different modes of media financing – the free market vs. the non-profit mechanism - have on the content of our newspapers, magazines, books, television, radio and movies. We will point out the ways in which various media actively shape, and at the same time, reflect the changing social and cultural values of our society. Ultimately, we will ask whether we can still talk about mass communication at a time when more and more people rely on personalized social websites or smartphones for their contact with the outside world.

## **Introduction to Economics**

This course introduces the basic tools that economists use to explore these topics and will cover fundamental economic concepts like scarcity, supply and demand, costs and benefits, trade-offs, and incentives.

# Managerial Accounting

Opportunity for college credit available

Managerial accounting is concerned with providing information to managers for use within the organization. Managerial accounting is a company's internal language, and is used for decisionmaking, production management, product design and pricing, marketing, and for motivating and evaluating employees.

The general objectives of Managerial Accounting are to equip the student with an understanding of: (1) The preparation and uses of accounting information for use within the firm. (2) The concepts and principles underlying the managerial accounting procedures and methods. (3) The use of accounting information for business decisions and as a basic language of business. The course will emphasize communication skills, critical thinking and decision-making skills, and real-world issues in accounting.

# Financial Accounting

Opportunity for college credit available

First, this course introduces current procedures of financial accounting and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The course emphasizes the analysis of business transactions and the study of the accounting cycle. Topical areas in the course include accrual-based accounting concepts, internal controls; financial statement preparation; and accounting elements of a corporate business entity. Ethical accounting standards are embedded throughout the course materials.

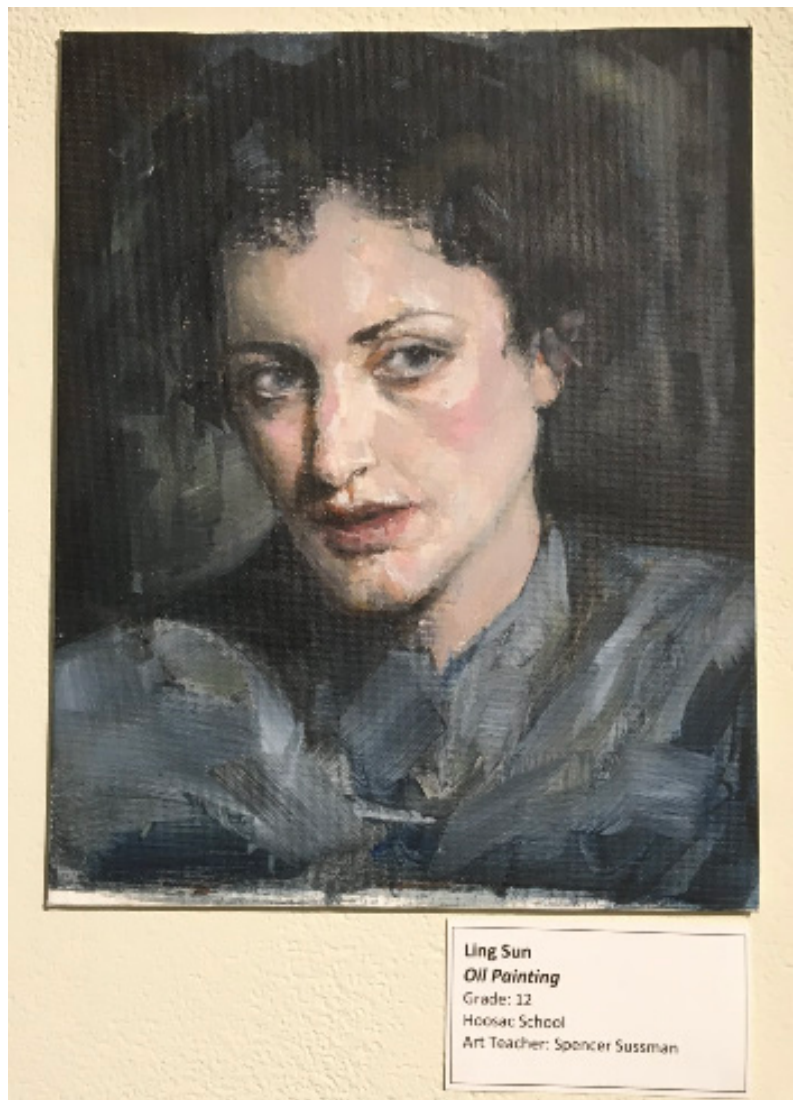
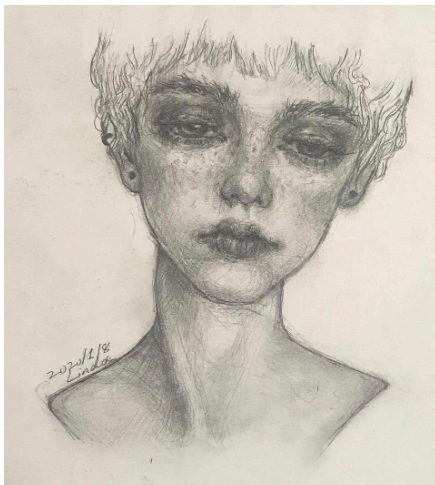
## COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Understanding key accounting concepts, terms, and principles.
- Understand where financial statement information originates
- Understand the content and purpose of the income statement and balance sheet.
- See how the trial balance is used to create the balance sheet and income statement.
- Understand complex accounting transactions and how they relate to accounting principles.
- Recognize the impact of judgment and bias on financial statements and accounting practices.
- Understand how to construct and interpret the cash flow statement

# VISUAL ARTS & MUSIC



All students are encouraged to study the visual arts. Hoosac's visual arts program is designed to provide students with meaningful opportunities to investigate fine arts and art history, as well as how art teaches about world cultures. Students experience a variety of media - both traditional and nontraditional - as well as approaches to using technology as an artistic tool. Students taking art courses will be challenged in ways that will help them develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills as well as artistic, technical and aesthetic sensibilities. Studies have shown that students who study the arts score considerably higher on standardized exams such as the SAT and ACT. Critiques accompany each unit of study and provide students an opportunity to exhibit, discuss, and write about their work.



## **2-Dimensional Art - Trimester Course 1/3 credit**

Hoosac School's two dimensional classes explore many different skills and techniques used to visualize and communicate ideas onto a flat surface. Our students learn that drawing is a core tool used to develop one's thoughts. We learn to understand the forms and structures in the world we live in through the use of composition, perspective, proportion and color. Our students work from life, imagination, and a combination of both to achieve an understanding of different media and how to investigate one's ideas.

## **3-Dimensional Art - Trimester Course 1/3 credit**

In our three dimensional classes our students develop an understanding of volume, structure, form, scale, and process. Students learn basic techniques in modeling clay, relief carving, mold making, and model making. This course is designed to explore materials and technical processes in sculpture.

## **4-Dimensional Art - Trimester Course 1/3 credit**

Our four dimension class introduces students to digital media including digital photography, video, and design. Students learn basic editing of video with Adobe Premiere Pro and photography with Adobe Photoshop. In class we combine the use of many other disciplines with technology and how it can be used as a tool to help capture, alter, refine, abstract, and grow one's ideas.

## **Advanced Studio Art - Portfolio Development (Independent Study)**

**Prerequisites:** Permission from the Dean of Academics, course Instructor & Previous Art Portfolio

This course is intended for the highly motivated and dedicated student who is able to assume responsibility, work independently and is interested in the serious study of Art. The portfolio covers a wide range of art forms. Students will have the opportunity to take a challenging hands-on art course, and develop a portfolio that can be used to support acceptance into college (academic colleges as well as art schools). The course is open to students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and who have previous art training.

## **Music Performance Workshop: Trimester Course or Year Course**

In this music class, students have the time to work individually on practicing an instrument and/or singing. Given the wide range of ability levels, the expectations and goals are tailored to the specific interests of the student. Eventually, every student will be able to participate in a group performance, even if they are complete beginners.

## **Music Theory**

The Music Theory course is designed to enhance music skills and basic music fundamentals. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form are studied. Throughout the course of the year students will study basic notation, scales, key signatures, intervals, triads, cadences, non-chord tones, form, part-writing and analysis of a score. Aural dictation and ear training are also an integral part of the course and will be taught throughout the year. Individual creativity is nurtured through both rhythmic and melodic composition.

## **Music Appreciation**

In Music Appreciation, students will recognize the development of music from a historical and cultural perspective. Students will study the fundamentals of music and discover basic music terminology, instrument families, tempo, rhythm, form and meter. These elements will then be used throughout the course as a foundation for discussion of music throughout history. Eras covered will include Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and a variety of 20th century genres. Students will gain an understanding of the context in which music was created by recognizing and aurally identifying style characteristics, genres, and representative masterworks from various periods.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGES & ELECTIVES



# MANGO LANGUAGES

Hoosac incorporates interactive software in all foreign language studies. Students work both independently and with a teacher on any language offered through Mango Languages. Students learn with proven linguistic methodology that focuses on intuitive language construction. This program features native speaker audio, real-life conversations, and cultural context in all lessons, as well as frequent assessments to create an individualized experience for each student.

## **Introduction to Psychology - Year Course 1 credit**

The aim of the course is to introduce and familiarize students with a wide range of theories and research investigating human behavior. The course has been developed to be as interesting and challenging as possible. The objective is to explore how the science of psychology has contributed to an understanding of individual, social and cultural diversity.

## **Abnormal Psychology - Year Course or Trimester**

This course provides an examination of the various psychological disorders as well as theoretical, clinical, and experimental perspectives of the study of psychopathology. Emphasis is on terminology, classification, etiology, assessment, and treatment of the major disorders

## **Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation - Year Course 1 credit**

Students not only learn about the history, process, and theories of the juvenile justice system, but they also gain access to the latest crime measurements and explore important issues such as community-based sanctions, treatment and rehabilitation, gangs, and international youth crime. Emphasizing evidence-based practices, the authors guide readers through the methods and problems of the system and offer realistic insights for students interested in a career in juvenile justice.

## **Public Speaking - Year course or Trimester**

This course provides instruction and experience in preparation and delivery of speeches within a public setting and group discussion. Emphasis is on research, preparation, delivery, and evaluation of informative, persuasive, and special occasion public speaking.



## **Theater Fundamentals - Year Course -1 credit**

In this course, students will focus on reading and performing dramatic works ranging from ancient Greek tragedy, to Shakespeare, to contemporary humor. Throughout this course, all areas of the theater and the various skills needed to produce and stage a production will be covered: acting, directing, backstage, set design, costuming, lighting and sound, playwriting and dramaturgy. Students will frequently work in groups or independently to present scenes or monologues in class; additionally, school-wide performances will be organized and scheduled accordingly.

## **Video Production - Year Course or Trimester**

This course focuses on teaching the fundamentals of creating high-quality videos and films. Students will use different components of the Adobe suite including Premiere, After Effects, and Lightroom to film, edit, and assemble a range of products including short films, advertisements, news segments, and vlogs.

## **Podcasting - Year Course - 1 credit**

**Prerequisite - VIth former and permission from course instructor**

Students in this class will learn the components of radio and podcast production. This includes interviewing, story development, script writing, interview techniques, digital audio recording, editing of sound, mixing, and final production for broadcast. By the end of the course, students will utilize these skills to produce episodes of the school podcast entitled OwlCast, which can be found on Spotify.

## **Wood Shop - Year Course or Trimester**

Woodshop is a course designed to introduce students to general woodworking practices. Students will expand their knowledge and experience through various projects, lessons, and vocabulary.

## **Journalism - Year Course or Trimester**

This course gives students the opportunity to learn the intricacies of specific types of journalistic writing, including news, feature, sport, investigative/in-depth, opinion and review writing.

## **Epistemology - Trimester Course - 1/3 Credit**

Epistemology is the theory of knowledge, especially with regard to its methods, validity, and scope. It is the investigation of what distinguishes justified belief from opinion. This class aims to look at multiple theories philosophers have held throughout history and how we come to understand our acquiring of knowledge.

*Electives may be offered on a rotating basis, and not available during all academic years*

# PRACTICUMS

## **Athletic Training - Trimester Course - 1/3 Credit**

Students will learn the proper skills related to the prevention of athletic injuries and illnesses. Through hands-on participation in lab activities.

## **Vocational Studies - Trimester Course - 1/3 Credit**

Students will learn a skill or trade by using a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on training

## **Strength and Conditioning - Trimester Course - 1/3 Credit**

The practicum student will have daily and weekly responsibilities which include but are not limited to: weight room maintenance, setting up for work-outs, cleaning up after work-outs, assisting the strength staff during team and individual workouts, spotting athletes, and any additional assignments or duties required by the strength staff. All practicum students are required to attend a weekly educational meeting and to complete a notebook.

*Practicums are only offered to students who have completed all prerequisites required for the course, and after course approval by Dean of Academics.*

*Failure to actively participate in daily requirements will result in dismissal from the practicum at anytime*