



Sage Ridge School

College Preparatory Excellence

Sage Ridge School

(Grades 9 – 12)

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE
2ND SEMESTER ELECTIVES
SPRING, 2011

HISTORY

ENVIRONMENTAL LAW AND POLICY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is ideal for students who have interest in the law and the environment. We will focus on the law pertaining to environmental issues such as population, economic growth, energy, pollution, and climate change. Specifically, we will study the National Environmental Policy Act, the Clean Air Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Students will also study the history of the environmental movement and the latest environmental policies.

ENGLISH

PUBLIC SPEAKING

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Public Speaking provides students with an opportunity to develop effective skills in the research, organization, and presentation of speeches to an audience. As young leaders, all Sage Ridge School students are required to cultivate this vital skill. This is a performance-based class, in which students survey and practice a variety of public speaking styles and methods. Guided by Mr. Randy Fujishin's text *The Natural Speaker*, the class begins with improvisational speaking and progresses to informative and persuasive speaking. The class utilizes the internet as a research and teaching tool and includes a biography unit on great American speakers. The class culminates with the SRS tradition of student speeches at the Upper School Town Meeting.

TEXT

Fujishin, Randy, *The Natural Speaker*, 6th ed.

SUPPLEMENTAL TEXTS/READINGS

Supplemental readings are provided by the instructor.

SPEECH AND DEBATE FUNDAMENTALS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course focuses on effective public speaking skills through the rubric of competitive forensics. Specifically, students will research a variety of topics relating to pertinent topics offered by the National Forensics League in preparation for competition in tournaments. Tournament participation is optional for the class, but it is a terrific way to help students develop their skills through multiple rounds of speeches and debates over the course of the tournament.

A variety of events will be offered to display the wide array of skills each participant possesses. Impromptu, Extemporaneous Speaking, Dramatic Interpretation, and Original Oratory are some examples of the types of events that students will have an opportunity to compete in.

In addition, Policy Debate, Lincoln/Douglas Debate, and Congressional Debate are events that will hone the speaking skills, critical thinking, and research abilities of those who are in the class.

Each tournament offers at least 8 hours of speaking time to each student, and in the event that participants successfully make it into elimination rounds, an additional 3 hours will be available to students.

THE ARTS

HISTORY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course introduces students to the major genres of western music. Topics included are the hallmarks of musical style, salient cultural features, and composers.

Music History offers students the opportunity to study the most important features of western music from the 6th century to the present day. Students learn to listen actively to music and to identify the salient musical and cultural features of each historical period. Notable composers of each period from Hildegard von Bingen, to Josquin, Palestrina, Bach, Mozart, Beethoven and Mahler are studied in detail. The study of their music helps each student to develop a meaningful relationship with the essential elements not only of the musical history of each time period but of the overarching cultural context as well.

HISTORY OF THEATRE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the role of theatre in history and civilization. Students will research the qualities and characteristics of theatre in the modern era and compare and contrast this with theatre in a post modern world (1986 – present). For the third quarter, we will read, discuss and analyze two comedies, *Arsenic and Old Lace* by Joseph Kesselring and *God Of Carnage* by Jasmina Reza. We will pursue a musical theatre unit in the fourth quarter in conjunction with the SRS production of *The Wizard of Oz*.

STUDIO ART I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides basic art instruction to emphasize the fundamentals of art and to develop skills in art. Studio art offers the opportunity to illustrate ideas for artworks from direct observation, experiences, and imagination using art elements and principals. Projects are assigned using a variety of media and tools including design, drawing, painting, printmaking, graphic design, ceramics and sculpture. Large scale installation art is considered as well. Connections for these projects are provided through both cultural and historical examples of art.

STUDIO ART II

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Upper School Studio Art II is designed to follow up on concepts explored in US Studio Art. This class may serve as a transitional course from US Studio Art into AP Studio Art. The student is engaged in various aspects of art studio thinking habits. National Standards for visual art appropriate to the developmental level of high school students are used as a guide in assigning projects in this class. The Principles of Design are emphasized in projects which are personal and reflective of the student's understanding of the many aspects of art and art making. A variety of two and three dimensional media are used in studio projects. Each project includes an overview of historical and cultural influences on art styles and movements, as is choosing and evaluating subjects, symbols, and ideas in the student's work. This course may be taken as an independent study with instructor's approval.

CERAMICS I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ceramics I is a semester course in which students explore a broad range of approaches to creating three dimensional art with clay. Assigned projects use a variety of hand building techniques, requiring the student to consider the physical characteristics of clay as an art making medium. Student work includes the production of functional as well as sculptural clay objects. Technical, historical and cultural aspects of ceramics, as well as ceramics vocabulary make up the content of this course. A sketchbook is an integral part of the course in which ideas for projects, ceramic vocabulary, and information is kept. Participation and completion of projects are the main components of assessment in this class.

CERAMICS II

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Ceramics II is a semester course which is designed to expand upon skills and techniques learned in Ceramics 1. This course is geared to the student who is motivated to undertake ambitious work in clay and further their understanding of ceramics as a means of artistic expression. As the student gains confidence in their abilities to work with this medium, they will begin to develop a personal style. Projects continue to stress both functional and sculptural concerns, with the student being asked to create work which reflects well thought out solutions to three dimensional visual problems.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Ceramics I and/or instructor approval.

DIRECTING I

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Theatre Direction is a technically-focused, production-based theatre class which develops the student's understanding of the role of the director and the designer. Equal parts theoretical and practical, students will engage in script analysis, directorial analysis and research as well as scenic, costume, lighting and sound design. For the first quarter our focus will be our fall production of William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. For the second quarter, students will create a production concept for a play of their choosing based on a list from the instructor.

Play List (copies provided by Instructor)

1. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, William Shakespeare.
2. *Sleeping Beauty*, by John Blomberg
3. SRS Spring Musical (To Be Announced)

DIRECTING II

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Directing II builds on knowledge gained from *Directing I*. In this advanced class, we take theatre design techniques learned in the fall with *Midsummer Night's Dream* and apply them towards the SRS winter and spring productions. Equal parts theoretical and practical, students will engage in script analysis, directorial analysis and research as well as scenic, costume, lighting and sound design. For the third quarter our focus will be John Blomberg's comedy *Sleeping Beauty: A Fractured Fairytale* and for the fourth quarter it will be the classic American musical, *The Wizard of Oz*.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Directing I and/or instructor approval.