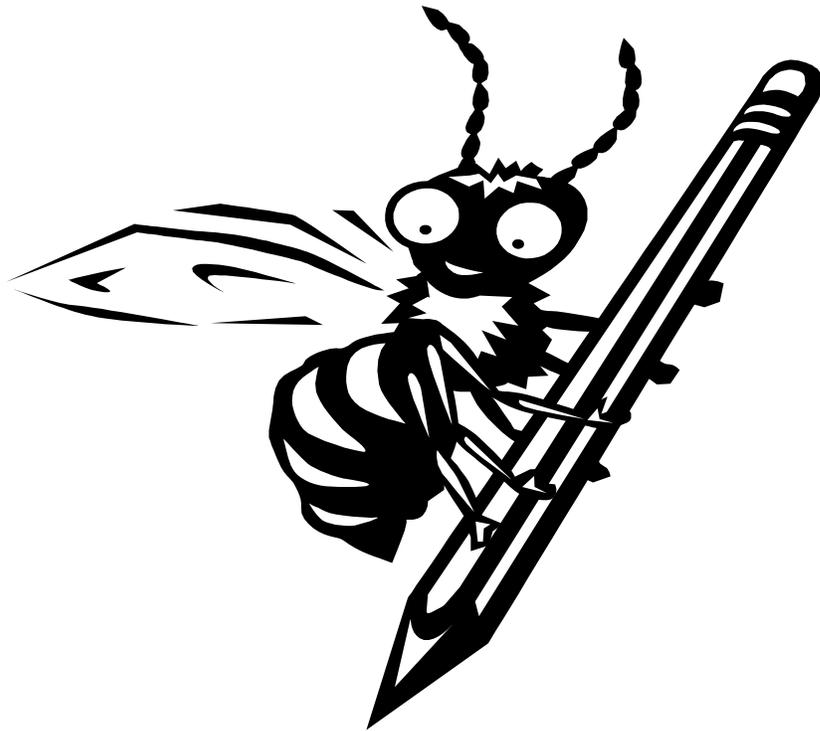


# WHITCOMB SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL



**COURSE OF STUDIES  
2016-2017**



**STUDIO ART 3D****ELECTIVE****GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This half-year course will introduce students to studio practices as they utilize varied three dimensional media, such as papier-mâché, plaster gauze, wire, clay, fiber arts and mixed media sculpture. While developing their individual styles, students will have opportunities to discuss, analyze and respond to their creative choices. Students will also study historical and contemporary artists and movements and the role of the arts in society. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

**CERAMICS****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

This half-year course will introduce students to the development of three dimensional forms utilizing different types of clay. Using raw materials, students will have the opportunity to create new forms utilizing hand building techniques, molds, sculpting, and the potter's wheel as well as surface decoration and glazing. Students will also study historical and contemporary ceramic artists and the role of ceramics in society. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

**PAINTING****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

This half-year course will provide students with an introduction to different painting styles, subjects and techniques. Students will kick off this course with the study of color theory, experience different painting media (such as watercolor, ink wash, gouache, and acrylic), explore painting in art history, and finish with stretching their own canvas. May be repeated for credit and modified for more advanced art students.

**INDEPENDENT STUDY****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

This option is available both semesters for advanced and self-motivated art students who wish to pursue an individualized course of study in visual arts. Independent Study may be scheduled during an existing art class or at another mutually available time.

**DRIVER EDUCATION****GRADES 9-12****¼ CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** State of Vermont Driver's Permit

Driver Education consists of 30 hours of classroom instruction and 6 hours of in-car instruction. The classroom instruction includes:

1. Vehicle orientation
2. Physical Laws which affect the vehicle in motion
3. Energy efficient driving
4. Highway laws
5. Alcohol and drugs
6. Defensive driving
7. Motorcycle awareness

These topics are presented so the student develops the skills necessary for safe and efficient driving on our highways. This is an after school program.

## ENGLISH

**Students are required to complete four years of English study to earn their high school diploma.** We have made some exciting changes to the grades 9-12 Language Arts curriculum. Students may take either two half-year courses or a year-long course. In alternating years, the half-year English electives will change, allowing students both a wider choice and more tightly focused topics. All students must take at least two literature credits. All courses offered are at the College Preparatory or CP level.

### HUMANITIES ENGLISH

**GRADE 9**

**1 CREDIT**

Humanities 9 is designed to improve students' reading strategies, vocabulary, grammar skills, basic writing abilities, and understanding of some of the most important eras in US history. Students will explore a variety of media and literature including film, short stories, novels, and poetry. The major novels will be modern young adult fiction titles as well as classic texts.

### JOURNALISM

**GRADES 9-12**

**1 CREDIT**

This year-long, hands-on course will teach students the basic principles of journalism, and will focus on maintaining a biweekly newspaper. Students will fill many roles, from reporter to copy editor, and will analyze news stories from around the globe. Throughout the year we will be writing stories that focus on the school, community, and world at large. Students who have already taken Journalism will help guide the others and take on leadership roles during the first semester.

### POETRY

**GRADES 10-12**

**SEMESTERS 1 & 2    ½ CREDIT**

You may not be aware, but poetry is everywhere! In this semester long course, we will read selected poems from well-known authors such as Whitman, Poe, Dickinson and Hughes. We'll also explore some of the less well-known sources of poetry and the relationship between poetry and other types of art (like music and visual art). Students will craft their own original poems and engage in writers' workshops.

### HORROR FICTION

**GRADES 10-12**

**SEMESTER 1**

**½ CREDIT**

Monsters, vampires, and zombies, oh my! This course will explore texts (novels, short stories, poems, and films) that feature these terrifying creatures. We will ask the question "What separates man from monster?" while exploring the style and themes of this genre. Our texts will include modern works like *The Walking Dead* as well as classics like *Frankenstein* and the 1968 film *Night of the Living Dead*.

### INTENSIVE STUDY OF FILM AS LITERATURE    GRADES 10-12

**SEMESTER 1**

**½ CREDIT**

Did you know that great films can be read and analyzed just as great works of literature are? In this course, you will learn how to become a discerning viewer through the application of advanced theories. We will read college level articles on film theory and develop analytical writing pieces using these theories to critique various classic, as well as modern, movies. The texts for this course will include classic films such as *Casablanca* as well as more modern works, such as *Pan's Labyrinth*.

**DISTORTED SOCIETY****GRADES 9-12****SEMESTER 2****½ CREDIT**

The popularity of novels, films, and short stories set in dystopias (imagined places or states where everything is bad or unpleasant) has been on the rise over the past several years. In this course, we will study works that feature a dystopian society and ask ourselves important questions such as, “What makes a society a dystopia?” and “How does our society compare to various dystopias?”. Texts for this course will include novels both classic and modern such as *Fahrenheit 451* and *The Hunger Games* as well as several films and short stories.

**SHAKESPEARE****GRADES 10-12****SEMESTER 2****½ CREDIT**

One’s literary education is hardly complete without studying the works of William Shakespeare. Shakespeare can be read; but it should also be performed. In this class, we will engage in dramatic readings of Shakespeare as well as close examinations and analyses. We will discover why this author has remained popular for centuries, and find out just what makes his plays and poetry so essential. Plays for this class could include *Hamlet*, *Othello*, *Taming of the Shrew*, and *Henry V*.

**AMERICAN STUDIES****ELECTIVE****GRADE 11****1 CREDIT SOCIAL STUDIES & 1 CREDIT  
ENGLISH (graded individually)**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This course is an interdisciplinary study of twentieth century history, literature and culture. The course utilizes a variety of educational methods, including open classroom, collaborative groups and traditional approaches, to present an integrated view of the American experience in the twentieth century. Students read novels, plays, poems and narrative accounts of each time period in the century, use primary sources for historic study, listen to music and look at examples in the visual arts from each era. Students are expected to take on much responsibility for their learning. Students will be expected to read and write extensively in both English and History. A project is required for each thematic unit. Students are required to write a formal research paper on a topic of their choice within the scheme of the course. The history and literature for the course begin around 1900. The course examines the century both past and present, emphasizing recurrent trends and themes within its span. Current history is examined through the use of periodicals and discussion. Students receive one-half credit per semester in both Social Studies and English for successful completion of the course. Readings listed represent a possible range to be selected at the instructor’s discretion according to student needs and preferences; additions or changes to the reading list are ongoing. **Strongly recommended for students who are college or EARLY COLLEGE bound.**

**FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES/WELLNESS**

The major focus of the Family and Consumer Science is to empower individuals to manage the challenges of living and working in an ever-changing diverse global society. Learning experiences are designed to prepare students with knowledge and skills in the areas of personal development, family relationships, child development and parenting, consumer issues, food and nutrition, housing and home management, and clothing and textiles.

**ON YOUR OWN****REQUIRED****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

On Your Own is designed to assist students in continual development of insight into the rules, responsibilities, and risks of adulthood. Topics include: personality development, interpersonal relationships, resource management, conflict resolution, decision making, future planning, personal finance, wellness, family, parenting, and consumer issues. Activities are selected to help students make informed decisions and healthy choices throughout life.

**EARTH SENSE****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

Each week, this class will investigate Vermont's natural world in many different ways. We will learn about the environment surrounding our school by learning about the trees, wildlife, and other plant life. We will also learn about the foods that we grow in Vermont and Cook Foods from local farms. Topics may include survival skills, fire building, shelter building, natural utensils and tool making, tracking, natural edibles, wild crafting, herbal medicine and preparation, and various other connections to the natural world. Everyone in the class needs to be comfortable with walking through the woods and having hands on with nature. There will be classroom learning and outdoor learning. You must always come prepared for both, rain or shine.

**EARTH ARTS****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

In this class we will explore the many different types of Arts that you can make from materials from the Earth. Some of the projects will include art projects such as hand-made journals, books, cards, printmaking, paper mache sculptures, dream catchers, and art from nature. Other aspects of this class will be including awareness of textiles and what they mean to the different parts of the world. We will also learn about Food Art and the art of Herbs. We will experiment with making teas, herbal salves, and other herbal remedies. We will also create some edible food art and research some of the different food presentations from many different cultures. This class will help us to learn more about our Vermont culture and connect us to the world as Earth Arts is a global language.

**FARM TO SCHOOL****ELECTIVE****GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

The high school level Farm to School Youth Leadership Curriculum is designed to empower youth, teach them about their local food system, engage them in meaningful, hands-on learning activities that also strengthen the school's Farm to School program and link them directly with farmers in their community. Students will learn about their local food system, how school lunch really works (and make recommendations to the food service director), how to engage local food producers and develop a farm to school slogan and logo.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH****REQUIRED****GRADES 9 – 12****½ CREDIT**

Physical Education and Health shall be offered every day. Emphasis shall be placed on personal, physical, and social development. Individual fitness, physical fitness assessment, and social responsibilities will be emphasized. Activities shall include team sports, recreational activities, and social activities. (e.g. soccer, cross-country skiing, and dance). The course shall be supplemented with short field trips, as resources allow, designed to enhance the individual's interest and quality of life. Health education is an integral part of the program with important contemporary topics developed. Juniors and Seniors will be scheduled as necessary to fulfill graduation requirements.

**HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH****GRADES 10-12****½ CREDIT**

This class is a one semester class that explores the core concept topics of health education as identified by the Center for Disease Control and aims to develop health literacy skills. Topics include: mental, social, emotional and sexual health, healthy and safe relationships, nutrition and physical activity, personal care and body systems, growth and development, drugs, disease and disorders, safety and environmental health. Topics covered are used as a basis for health skill development in the areas of: interpersonal communication, conflict resolutions, analyzing influences, managing and maintain healthy behaviors, decision making, goal setting, and advocacy. Students will participate in the Health Education Assessment Project which involves the use of highly tested extended responses and performance tasks.

## FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

### STUDENT INTERNSHIPS

### ELECTIVE

### GRADES 11-12

### BY CONTRACT

Student internships are situations where students work for an employer for a specified period of time to learn about a particular industry or occupation. Student's workplace activities may include special projects, a sample of tasks from different jobs, or tasks from a single occupation. These may be paid or unpaid experiences. Internships are supervised, structured work experiences that can involve the practical application of previously studied topics for which school credit is awarded. Credit hours and the length of the internship as well as the intensity may vary depending on the course of study. (<http://education.vermont.gov/work-based-learning/internship>)

This opportunity is available, by written contract, like an independent study. Students participating in this special program must maintain good academic standing and attendance, must be carrying the minimum course load, and must have parent/legal guardian permission. High school credit can be earned. No more than two (2) credits can be earned in an academic year and no more than three (3) credits total during high school. See the high school counselor for details and to arrange student internships.

### SERVICE LEARNING

### ELECTIVE

### GRADES 9-12

### BY CONTRACT

This opportunity exists for students who wish to offer their services, free of charge, to any school or community undertaking that could benefit from such assistance. A contract, journal, and service log must be kept by the student and signed by the service site supervisor. No more than two (2) high school credits can be earned in a given academic year and no more than three (3) credits throughout high school. See the high school counselor if you are interested in this option.

### RANDOLPH TECHNICAL CAREER CENTER (RTCC)

### ELECTIVE

### GRADES 11-12

This is an opportunity for our juniors and seniors to apply their intellect and energy to a specific vocational field of interest. If you are interested in applying to the Randolph Technical Career Center, see the high school counselor for more details. A listing of program options and descriptions will be made available to you upon request or by visiting [www.randolphtech.org](http://www.randolphtech.org). To be eligible to apply, students must achieve specific course requirements at Whitcomb and be anticipating Junior or Senior status in the fall.

If RTCC does not have a program that you are interested, in you can access the opportunities available at Hartford Area Career & Technical Career Center, [www.hactc.com](http://www.hactc.com), Barre Technical Career Center, [www.barretechnicalcenter.org](http://www.barretechnicalcenter.org), or Stafford Technical Center, [staffordonline.org](http://staffordonline.org).

### DUAL ENROLLMENT

### PARTICIPATING VERMONT COLLEGES

### GRADES 11-12

**PREREQUISITE:** Recommendation of Whitcomb teacher of subject area desired and Guidance permission. College placement testing may be required.

**LOCATIONS:** Bennington College, Burlington College, Castleton University, Champlain College, College of St. Joseph, Community College of Vermont, Goddard College, Green Mountain College, Johnson State College, Landmark College, Lyndon State College, Marlboro College, New England Culinary Institute, Norwich University, Saint Michael's College, SIT Graduate Institute, Southern Vermont College, Sterling College, University of Vermont, and Vermont Technical College.

As a high school student at Whitcomb you may choose to take college courses at Vermont Colleges. Using a voucher, the tuition for up to a 4-credit course is free, leaving the student responsible for associated costs such as applicable fees, books, and supplies. Students must achieve a grade of "C" or better in any college course to qualify for high school credit. <http://www.vtdualenrollment.org/>. These free credits earned count towards high school graduation.

## **EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM**

**PREREQUISITE:** Anticipating Senior status, recommendations of Whitcomb teachers, application, college placement testing, interview and acceptance.

This accelerated program for high school seniors offers an exciting alternative and a chance to complete the final year of high school and first year of college at the same time. Whitcomb students may choose to receive a Whitcomb diploma and still attend an Early College Program (must complete requirements for Whitcomb Graduation). Students may take a year-long course of study in any subject area. Early College is available at specific Vermont Colleges by application and following procedures specific to each school. Tuition is free leaving the student responsible for associated costs such as applicable fees, books, and supplies (and on-campus residential fees if they choose not to commute). Students must achieve a grade of “C” or better in the college courses to qualify for high school credit. For more information, see the high school counselor.

**PROGRAM LOCATIONS:** Burlington College, Castleton University, Community College of Vermont, Johnson State College, Lyndon State College, University of Vermont, and Vermont Technical College (VAST).

## **DARTMOUTH COLLEGE - SPECIAL COMMUNITY STUDENT PROGRAM**

**GRADES 11-12**

**PREREQUISITE:** Recommendation of Whitcomb teacher of subject area desired, Principal, Guidance or school official permission, and application.

Eligible Whitcomb students can take up to three courses (1 course a term) at Dartmouth College, free of charge. Juniors may take 2 courses (Winter & Spring); Seniors may take 3 courses (Fall, Winter, & Spring). Families are responsible for transportation, any textbooks, and supplies. Courses available may be limited based on Dartmouth prerequisites. Please see the high school counselor for details.

## **ONLINE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES - VERMONT VIRTUAL LEARNING COOPERATIVE (VTVLC)**

VTVLC is an online community of high school classes taught by Vermont teachers and made available to students who have exhausted course opportunities available at Whitcomb. VTVLC incorporates interactive learning, blogging, online posting, and projects through an online Learning Management System (LMS). VTVLC courses allow the student to work in the course when their schedule allows, even before school, after school, or on weekends. If you are interested in taking a VTVLC course, see the high school counselor for more details. A listing of course options and descriptions will be made available to you upon request. Visit [www.vtvlc.org](http://www.vtvlc.org) for information.

Other Online Learning Opportunities can be discussed with the school counselor.

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MANUFACTURING ELECTIVE GRADES 9-12 1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Minimum age 14

How does manufacturing fit into the fabric of Vermont, and how has technology changed the manufacturing workplace? How can any person with a great idea for a product turn that idea into a solid business? Students will develop in-depth answers to these questions as they pursue this Randolph Union High School offering at the GW Plastics plant in Royalton, VT. From a request for a quote (when a company asks the manufacturer to build them a product), to designing the molds on a CAD system and then building them, to purchasing the necessary raw materials, to scheduling, programming, and employing state-of-the-art machines and robots, to making the product (an ensuring each piece passes a quality test), right to finding the best way to ship off the finished product, students will learn firsthand the capacities, challenges, and rewards of entrepreneurship and manufacturing. Participation in this course requires transportation to Randolph and to Royalton.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The goals for modern second language learning at Whitcomb Jr.- Sr. High School are to enable students: 1) to understand, speak, read, and write a modern second language in numerous real-world situations and for a variety of purposes; 2) to develop awareness and appreciation for another language and culture through the study of its daily life, history, geography, and social institutions. Students are asked and encouraged to use the target language in all communication in the classroom as extensively as possible.

Taking at least two years of the same foreign language is a common entry requirement to most colleges. Learning a foreign language also supports the learning of English and makes students more competitive for employment.

**INTERMEDIATE FRENCH I**                      **ELECTIVE**                      **GRADES 8-12**                      **1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

This course is designed for students who wish to get started in a second language. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**INTERMEDIATE FRENCH II**                      **ELECTIVE**                      **GRADES 9-12**                      **1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** 85 or better in French 2

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output (speaking and writing). Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**ADVANCED FRENCH**                      **ELECTIVE**                      **GRADES 10-12**                      **1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** 85 or better in French 3

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output and grammar. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Francophone countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**INTERMEDIATE SPANISH I**                      **ELECTIVE**                      **GRADES 8-12**                      **1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** None

This course is designed for students who wish to get started in a second language. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**INTERMEDIATE SPANISH II****ELECTIVE****GRADES 9-12****1 CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** 85 or better in Intermediate Spanish 1 & 2

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output (speaking and writing). Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**ADVANCED SPANISH****ELECTIVE****GRADES 10-12****1 CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** 85 or better in Spanish 3

This course is designed for students who wish continue their foreign language study with an increased focus on output and grammar. Exposure to the language will be personalized, engaging students through story-telling and personal question and answers. Students can expect to develop the four language skills-listening, speaking, reading and writing while engaging in their interests. Cultural norms of Hispanic countries will also be explored. Regular assessments will include quizzes, test, dialogue, and composition. Students should also expect to read novels tailored to their level and interests. The course will be highly participatory.

**MATHEMATICS**

Students are required to complete three years of mathematics study to earn their high school diploma. Students who do not meet the standard on the 11<sup>th</sup> grade state assessment are required to take an extra ½ credit approved mathematics class.

**All mathematics classes are aligned with the Common Core State Standards.**

**The following course of study prepares students for entry into four-year college and university programs:** Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2. Pre-Calculus is recommended for entry into competitive colleges, especially programs in engineering and business.

**The following course of study prepares students for entry-level work and most two-year colleges:** Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 and math supports as needed.

**ALGEBRA 1****REQUIRED****GRADE 8- 9****1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of the 8<sup>TH</sup> grade mathematics curriculum, or recommendation of the mathematics department. This course is normally completed during the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Mathematical content includes studying relationships between quantities, linear relationships, exponential and quadratic relationships, advanced functions and equations, and data analysis focusing on probability and statistics.



**MATH SUPPORT****ELECTIVE****GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT**

This course offers students a wide range of mathematical remediation for students who need more help and exposure to the problems. Emphasis will be placed on reviewing material learned in classes and extra skill practice.

This course is a requirement for students who have not met the standards for math in the state standardized tests or if they are failing the mathematics class they are in for 2 quarters in a row. This course may also be taken as an elective by students who have already met the standard.

**ADVANCED MATH STUDIES:** The opportunity for advanced math studies is available to eligible students at Vermont Technical College and Dartmouth College. Please see the high school counselor if interested.

**SCIENCE**

Students are required to complete three credits of science, including one course in biology.

**INTRODUCTION TO PHYSICAL SCIENCE****ELECTIVE****GRADE 9****1 CREDIT**

This course introduces ninth graders to physics and chemistry proficiencies while developing science practices that will be used throughout high school and their lives such as asking questions and designing investigations. Topics will include the Laws of Motion, transfer of energy, atomic structure and properties, and chemical reactions. Lab work is an important part of this course.

**BIOLOGY****REQUIRED****GRADES 10-12****1 CREDIT**

This course explores the wide-ranging world of life science. Studies will address the following areas: structure, function and information processing; matter and energy in organisms and ecosystems; and, growth, development and reproduction of organisms, natural selection and adaptations. Students have the opportunity to gain “with honors” on their transcript after completing the course with distinction.

**CHEMISTRY****ELECTIVE (2016-17)****GRADES 11-12****1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of Algebra I and IPS.

This course explores physical science related to the structure and properties of matter. Scientific practices will be developed through the application of chemistry. Laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.

**PHYSICS****ELECTIVE (2017-18)****GRADES 11-12****1 CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Taking or successful completion of Algebra II and IPS

This course explores physical science related to the structure and properties of matter, energy, waves, and electromagnetic radiation. Scientific practices will be developed through the application of physics in real life. Laboratory activities are an integral part of the course.



**EUROPEAN HISTORY****REQUIRED****GRADE 10****1 CREDIT**

This course is a survey of Western Civilizations including Greece, Rome, The Middle Ages, Renaissance and Reformation, Democratic Revolutions, The World Wars and the Cold War. It is designed to help students think about the past in order to understand the world we live in today. It will attempt to provide a balanced presentation of western history and will serve as a foundation for the development of social studies concepts and skills necessary for later study. Central to this course is the sharpening of such skills as speaking, critical thinking, reading for understanding, effective note-taking and research techniques. Students can take either this course or World Cultures to meet their World History graduation requirement.

**AMERICAN STUDIES****ELECTIVE****GRADE 11****1 CREDIT SOCIAL STUDIES & 1 CREDIT  
ENGLISH (graded individually)**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This course is an interdisciplinary study of twentieth century history, literature and culture. The course utilizes a variety of educational methods, including open classroom, collaborative groups and traditional approaches, to present an integrated view of the American experience in the twentieth century. Students read novels, plays, poems and narrative accounts of each time period in the century, use primary sources for historic study, listen to music and look at examples in the visual arts from each era. Students are expected to take on much responsibility for their learning. Students will be expected to read and write extensively in both English and History. A project is required for each thematic unit. Students are required to write a formal research paper on a topic of their choice within the scheme of the course. The history and literature for the course begin around 1900. The course examines the century both past and present, emphasizing recurrent trends and themes within its span. Current history is examined through the use of periodicals and discussion. Students receive one-half credit per semester in both Social Studies and English for successful completion of the course. Readings listed represent a possible range to be selected at the instructor's discretion according to student needs and preferences; additions or changes to the reading list are ongoing. **Strongly recommended for students who are college or EARLY COLLEGE bound.**

**CURRENT EVENTS****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This class will explore today's news topics through newspapers, magazine articles and the internet. Possible areas of study will be Iraq, Israel/Palestine, The Congo, The Sudan, The Environment and The United Nations. But the course of studies will be primarily directed by current news and student interest. Students will make class presentations, participate in class discussions and debates, and do extensive research. Previous course work from social studies will be referenced. The primary goal of Current Events course is to give students an understanding of the issues, ideas, and trends in today's world.

**WAR HISTORY****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT**

**PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European

Examine the role of the military and conflict on both the ancient and modern world. Students will research and analyze the strategic, technological, cultural, and political influence of warfare on human history and the development of civilizations from Ancient Greece to the war in Afghanistan. Additionally, this course will debate the many reasons why Military History is the most common theme of modern popular history.

**VERMONT STUDIES****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

This class will overview the cultural history of the state from the Native American presence through the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We will also examine the politics of present day Vermont. This class is project oriented and will require students to create a physical map of present day Vermont; present a newscast about a primary event occurring in Vermont colonial settlement days; research and present information to classmates about a political figure in present day Vermont. The culminating activity of the course asks the student to become the historian and conduct field research using digital documentary tools to create a multimedia presentation about some aspect of Vermont folk life.

**STREET LAW****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and European History

The Street Law class will use materials produced by Street Law, Inc. “Street Law, Inc. is dedicated to empowering people through law-related education. Law-related education is a unique blend of substance and instructional strategies. Students learn substantive information about law, democracy, and human rights through strategies that promote problem solving, critical thinking, cooperative learning, improved communication and conflict resolution skills, and the ability to participate effectively in society.”

**HISTORY IN FILM****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European History

In this course, there will be an overview of history as told through films. We will focus on three major themes acceptance, race in America, and Americans at War. Students will watch a variety of movies, and documentaries, and compare actual history with how is portrayed by Hollywood.

**POLITICAL SCIENCE****ELECTIVE****GRADES 11-12****½ CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European History

All political thought thrives on debate. Modern political issues are rarely one-sided and the examination of multiple viewpoints enhances understanding and critical thinking. The incorporation of the history surrounding current political issues also promotes deeper understanding of the reasons why people hold particular views. An understanding of the American political system, with emphasis on the origins and evolution of rights and civil liberties, will help enhance our participatory democracy by empowering students with the knowledge of how the system works and how it can be changed. Gaining a better understanding of the U.S. in the global context is another goal of this political science elective course.

**BETHEL ROAD SHOW****ELECTIVE****GRADES 9-12****½ CREDIT****PREREQUISITE:** Successful completion of U.S. History and enrolled in or completion of European History

Students will spend a majority of the semester finding different artifacts from throughout history and researching their origin, historical significance, and retell the history of that object. This course will involve picking out antiques and artifacts from local shops, or from home. Students will work with members of the Bethel Historical Society to figure out the best way to display the information they find. This can include interviews with local community members, and research using a variety of sources.

**CAPSTONE****ELECTIVE****GRADE 12****½ CREDIT**

First Semester: This class is designed primarily to help students navigate the college application process. We will start by developing resumes and working on writing college essays. Students will also get help with the finding colleges that suit their needs and interests. We will work on the Common Application and any other necessary applications as well as financial aid applications including the FAFSA, CSS profile, and VSAC scholarships. Some class time will also be dedicated to checking progress on senior project.

**RESEARCH WRITING****ELECTIVE****GRADE 12****½ CREDIT**

This class is a college preparatory research writing class designed to help students with the Senior Project research paper. Students will be guided through all of the phases of research writing from assessing sources, developing sustainable thesis statements, and organization to editing the final draft. Students are expected to be finished with the planning and product components of Senior Project before this class starts in January. The Senior Project requires students to write an 8-12 page thesis-driven research paper and this class will help them stay on task and focused through the process. Special emphasis will be placed on preparing students for college-level writing.

**SENIOR PROJECT****REQUIRED****GRADE 12****1 CREDIT**

Seniors must complete a Senior Project as a requirement to graduate from Whitcomb High School. The Senior Project grade is composed of five phases as defined in the Senior Project handbook and rubric. Any student who is required to do a Senior project at Whitcomb High School will need to take the Research Writing class or pre-approved college class with similar topics covered, such as Freshmen Composition at VAST (Vermont Academy of Science and Technology at Vermont Technical College). A student completing a Senior Tech Project at RTCC (Randolph Technical Career Center) will have to meet the RTCC requirements and will not have to complete a Senior project at WHS.