

**New Fairfield Public Schools
New Course Proposal**

Directions:

Before completing this form, please discuss this proposal with the appropriate administrator(s) in your school. Complete this proposal form thoroughly, and attach any supporting documentation that would help the Board of Education's Curriculum Sub-Committee understand this proposal better. Be sure that you adhere to all deadlines, and be certain to acquire all required signatures. To ensure that a course can be properly planned for, if it is intended for a coming school year, please complete it by October 31. All other proposals can be forwarded at any time of the year.

Course Being Proposed __Maritime Culture - MAST 1200 (ECE course through UCONN)___

Proposal submitted by __Bonny Marsicano and Karon McGovern__

School __New Fairfield High School__

1. Indicate the department/grade level in which this course/program will run.

Maritime Culture will be a semester-long ECE offering within the high school English Department. The current ECE course, Young Americans, will change from a full year course to a semester-long course. By doing so, this allows students greater flexibility to take one or both ECE courses offered, in addition to one of the many offered Senior Selectives.

2. Please indicate if the new course or instructional program is a semester long or year long, and indicate the applicable grade levels. Please indicate the course level if applicable.

Maritime Culture will be a semester-long course offered to students in grade 12. There is potential for this course to be opened up to grade 11 students but that would be contingent on at least another semester class being available.

3. Please give the rationale for this proposal, and include its relationship to the past, current and future development of curricular offerings in New Fairfield.

Maritime Culture is a humanities-based course with interdisciplinary ties to art, music, literature, science, linking the international maritime culture to that links peoples, nations, economies, environments, and cultural aesthetics. This course is an opportunity to bring together all of the disciplines our school offers in its program of studies and an amazing opportunity for the teacher of this course to collaborate across all contents in the high school, and beyond.

4. Please indicate the target population for this proposal.

Students who are engaged readers, engaged writers, and willing to be engaged in class discussions. Students need to have a strong work ethic and be invested in critical thinking required of a college student. Students could be juniors or seniors.

5. Please explain if this course or instructional program is an addition or a replacement for an existing course or program.

Maritime Culture would be an additional ECE course offering for students at New Fairfield High School.

6. List any prerequisites for this course or instructional program.

Although not a prerequisite, students should demonstrate a strong work ethic; students should have shown a desire to be committed to reading and to writing and to being a willing/prolific participant in classroom discussions.

7. Please write a short description of the new course or instructional program that would be suitable for the high school *Program of Studies* or for a curriculum document.

Introduction of Maritime Culture (UConn ECE)

A study of history and literature to understand the international maritime culture that links peoples, nations, economies, environments, and cultural aesthetics. Throughout history, the sea has served as a highway, a source of food, an arena for warfare, and a stage for discovery. Through this course, students will consider the ocean itself as a natural environment whose fate is entwined with that of the human actors we will study. These actors have included sailors, whalers, slaves, pirates, fishermen, shore side residents, merchants, politicians, novelists, scientists, and policymakers. This course will cover art and music of the sea, nautical mythology/archetypes, superstition, social history, ancient and modern sea trades and merchants. Literature we could cover is, not specifically, and not limited to: *Fathoming the Ocean* (key text) - a text about the discovery and exploration of the deep sea; *The Old Man and the Sea*, Hemingway; *America and the Sea*; *Life of Pie*; *Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, Shanties of The Fisherman's Friends; *The Merchant of Venice* William Shakespeare etc etc. Depending on eventual specifics of the syllabus, other texts will come from across the academic disciplines from history, to science, to sport, to clothing, to foods and so forth.

8. Please list the long-term course or program goals that define the broad outcomes that this course or program seeks to help students achieve.

James D'Amico has long spoken of his desire for interdisciplinary classes in our school, and encouraged teachers to collaborate to this end. As far as the teacher of this

proposed new course is concerned, Karon McGovern, this has been a desire since joining New Fairfield high school, over 10 years ago. Indeed, in our new school, James has proposed department learning spaces, set up whereby staff across the disciplines can work together and collaborate together. This year James set up an interdisciplinary department office where teachers from various disciplines are “residing” to pursue his long term goal of getting inter-content class activities. This course will bring such “learning spaces” to life while, at the same time fitting in with James’ dream and desired outcomes of the future of education in New Fairfield high school - interdisciplinary learning experiences.

9. Please indicate what topics, units, or material will be used to meet the long-term goals listed above. What assessment strategies will be used in this course or program? What are the unique components of this course or program content that make it a worthwhile addition for our students?

Maritime Culture

Module 1: Sea Shanties and Superstition

Module 2: People, Pirates, and Politics

Module 3: Trash, Trade, and Takeout

10. Please enumerate the resources – both human and financial – that you anticipate will be needed to develop this course or program correctly. What impact would this proposal have on scheduling, staffing, and resources? Consider training, equipment and space needs.

Since Maritime Culture is a semester-long course, it can be paired to run consecutively with our current ECE Young Americans course, and also with any of the other various Senior Selectives. Our ECE instructor, Karon McGovern, will teach each course in succession semester one and semester two in order to maintain a single prep.

11. If this course will require a textbook, what is the title and cost estimate of a likely text?

UConn will provide the books (see attached) for students enrolled in the course on loan; so costs would be minimal. We would include a modest budget amount for any books that we would need to replace for any reason and for postage/collection/return.

12. What impact will this course/program proposal have upon other courses/programs currently being offered in the district?

James D’Amico has long spoken of his desire for interdisciplinary classes in our school, and encouraged teachers to collaborate to this end.

This course has the opportunity of bringing together all disciplines in our program of studies and the opportunity for teachers to collaborate in the most creative and fun way, connecting what students are doing in other disciplines in order to bring meaning to what they are learning. This class could be one pivotal locus whereby students can have the epiphany that all learning, no matter the content matter, is connected.

Signatures of those making this proposal:



Teacher

12/15/2022
Date



Department Chair (if applicable)

12/15/2022
Date



Principal

12/19/22
Date



Assistant Superintendent

1/18/23
Date

MAST ECE Lending Library

Maritime Studies Early College Experience Lending Library

Borrow a single book for a day or for the whole semester, or arrange to receive a course pack for your entire class—Just sign books out (provide your contact information) and return them when you're ready.

Books donated by Connecticut Humanities,
UConn Maritime Studies, and UConn Early College Programs

Contact MAST@uconn.edu for more information.

- Callahan, *Adrift: Seventy-Six days Lost at Sea* (33)
- Greenlaw, *The Hungry Ocean* (65)
- Hayes, *My Old Man and the Sea* (64)
- Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea* (24)
- Junger, *The Perfect Storm* (49)
- Kiley and Noonan, *Untamed Seas* (56)
- Kipling, *Captains Courageous* (25)
- Labaree, et al, *America and the Sea* (18)
- Martel, *Life of Pi* (24)
- Nguyen, *The Refugees* (25)
- O'Neill, *Three Great Plays: "The Emperor Jones," "Anna Christie" and "The Hairy Ape"* (24)
- Philbrick, *In the Heart of the Sea: The Tragedy of the Whaleship Essex* (40)
- Proulx, *The Shipping News* (35)
- Synge, *"The Playboy of the Western World" and "Riders to the Sea"* (23)

