

Geneva High School

Memorandum

To: Board of Education
From: Tom Rogers and Doug Drexler
Date: November 6th, 2017
Re: GHS New and Modified Courses for 2018-2019
Cc: Dr. Mutchler, Dr. Barrett, Mrs. Sims

Although it seems as if the current school year is just getting underway, we have already been hard at work planning for the 2018-2019 school year. We are recommending one new course as well as varying degrees of modification to twelve existing courses. These changes to our course offerings will better enable us to meet the continually evolving needs of our students.

To date, these new and modified courses have been reviewed and approved by the GHS Department Chairs, Building Leadership Team, Building Administration, and the District Department of Learning and Teaching. We await your approval before allowing students to register for these courses beginning in early December.

Some of these recommendations do not require a change in staffing, space, or materials, while others will require those changes if they produce sufficient student enrollments. Funding requests for any expenses will follow the current procedures in the spring once our course registration process is complete. However, we have included the possible anticipated material costs for your reference.

For informational purposes, the accompanying chart also includes details on some related topics:

- Curricular studies that are currently underway that may result in future recommendations
- Existing GHS courses that will be offered in both traditional and blended formats in 2018-2019

Please let us know if you have any questions about the proposed changes that appear in this report. We are requesting that this appear on the November 13th Board of Education agenda for an informational presentation, with a subsequent vote for approval at the November 27th Board of Education meeting.

Context regarding the English IV course changes:

In the accompanying chart, there are some changes proposed to the senior year English IV course. To best understand these changes, we believe that some additional context is helpful. The English IV curriculum has not changed significantly in many years, and teacher feedback indicates that the novels being used have over time become less effective in connecting students to critical English skills. The release of the new English standards a few years ago prompted a comprehensive review and provided the opportunity for a fresh look at this course beyond simply addressing the novels being used. The review concluded that:

- The elements of rhetoric, argument, critical thinking, and language that already exist in the senior-level, yearlong AP Language course should be distilled and become the emphasis in the standard-level, one-semester English IV experience. These core skills not only meet the new English standards, but more importantly best prepare students for college and the workforce.
- In order to help foster high levels of student engagement, an element of student choice should be incorporated into the literature associated with English IV. Based on faculty study and student interest surveys, three literary genres were identified as having strong levels of interest.

- The resulting recommendation is our proposal to have three versions of English IV for students to choose from:
 - English IV: Science Fiction & Fantasy (new course)
 - English IV: World Mythology (modification of existing course)
 - English IV: Contemporary Literature (modification of existing course)

Students enrolling in any of these three English IV variants will experience the same core curriculum, skill development, and common assessments; the only difference is in the literary genre selected by the students. As is currently the case, seniors would be required to take English IV and another semester-long English elective unless they enroll in the yearlong AP Language course.

Fall 2017 Summary of GHS Course Proposals

Proposals for New Courses:

Department:	Course:	Description:	Anticipated Material Costs:
English	English IV: Science Fiction & Fantasy Literature	This new senior-level English elective will be one of the three senior level English electives that focus on rhetoric and argument. Science Fiction and Fantasy was selected as the genre for this course based on high levels of student interest in the study phase of course development.	\$1200 for new novels

Proposals to Modify Existing Courses:

Department:	Course:	Brief Summary of Proposed Change:	Anticipated Material Costs:
Art	Advanced Photography Concepts	Currently, the prerequisite for this course is either Film Photography <u>or</u> Digital Photography. Given the advanced nature of the course, <u>both</u> of these introductory courses should be taken as prerequisites.	None
Art	AP Studio Art	Allow students to repeat this course for credit. This is the capstone Art course at GHS, but students taking it as juniors are left with limited art options senior year. By making this a repeatable class, students will be able to engage in high-level art for two years. Students repeating this course will be required to focus on a different art medium for their portfolio.	None
Art	Digital Photography and Film Photography	Make both of these courses available to freshmen students, as they are developmentally appropriate for grades 9-12. These courses are currently open to grades 10-12.	None

Business	Virtual Enterprises International (VEI)	Add an Honors designation option to this course. VEI serves as the capstone program in the Business Department at GHS, and students are learning and applying advanced skills throughout the course that warrant honors level status. Students seeking Honors credit will be required to successfully complete special projects each semester in addition to the regular course requirements.	None
English	Composition for Print/Web Media	Rename and simplify the course title to Journalism, which more effectively communicates what this course entails.	None
English	English IV	Rename this course English IV: Contemporary Literature, which is more reflective of the genre used in this course. This course will be one of the three senior level English electives that focus on rhetoric and argument.	None
English	World Literature	Rename this course English IV: World Mythology, which is more reflective of the curriculum. Additionally, shift the availability of this course to seniors only, as it will be one of the three senior level English electives that focus on rhetoric and argument.	\$600 for new novels
English	TV Production Techniques	Rename this course Film Production to better reflect a broader view of this communication medium that has grown beyond television.	None
Math	Integrated Algebra I and II	Discontinue these two courses, as they do not put students on pace to meet the new math standards. Enrollment has declined to only 6-14 students per year, and two other existing courses, Instructional Algebra and Algebra IA, are in place to meet the needs of students. Additionally, team-taught sections of Algebra IA are now available to further support students.	None

Social Studies	Contemporary American Issues and Contemporary World Issues	Remove the prerequisite of Sociology for each of these two courses. The sociology foundations for the material covered in these courses are embedded within them, making it unnecessary to take the entire Sociology course in advance.	None
Social Studies	History of America in the Twentieth Century	Rename and simplify course title to United States History.	None
Social Studies	Modern World History/Modern World History Honors	Rename and simplify course titles to World History and World History Honors.	None

Requests for Study:

Department:	Course:	Brief Summary of Study:	
Multiple	AP Capstone program	The AP Capstone is a relatively new College Board product consisting of two AP Courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Unlike other AP products, AP Capstone is skill-based instead of content-based, does not have a defined department associated with it, and is usually team-taught by faculty from different departments. This study will determine if AP Capstone would be a viable option at GHS and, if so, under what structure.	
Multiple	Summer Boot Camp for incoming freshmen	One of the supportive programs we have for incoming academically at-risk freshmen is the Freshman Seminar course, which is taken first semester instead of a study hall. However, some students who are recommended for this program do not enroll in the course due to lack of space in their schedule and/or the legitimate need for them to have a study hall. This study will determine what a summer version of Freshman Seminar would look like leading up to freshman year.	

Existing GHS courses that will be offered in both traditional and blended formats in 2018-2019:

Department:	Course:		
Business	Personal Finance	Blended Personal Finance will generally be structured with one blended day per week. Student activities, assignments, and projects are currently being developed that utilize online resources allowing students to effectively collaborate both in and out of the classroom.	
World Language	AP Spanish	Blended AP Spanish will generally be structured with two blended days per week, one for each half of the class. The focus on these days will be small group, in-depth speaking and listening exercises to build student skills leading up to the AP Spanish exam.	