



**Winchester Thurston School**



# **May Term 2010**

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## May Term Philosophy

In the spirit of Winchester Thurston's mission, academic excellence, and innovative *City as Our Campus* program, May Term creates opportunities for Upper School students to explore programs, topics, and activities that will expand their knowledge in a variety of areas beyond the boundaries of the traditional curriculum. May Term has been designed to mirror the intensive, independent, free choice approach that many colleges and universities undertake. Its ultimate goal is to encourage each student to become a life-long learner.

*\*City as Our Campus* course offerings are identified by an asterisk at the end of the course title.

## Registration Process

Students in grades nine, ten, and eleven are required to register and participate in May Term Courses. Twelfth grade students are invited, but not required. Registration will be done both by seniority and in the order in which completed registration forms are received. Registration forms will not be accepted before Friday, May 7.

- Review the course descriptions with your parents and discuss the courses you are interested in taking.
- For each block of time during the day, list four choices, with number one (1) being your first choice, etc.
- If you select a course that runs for all three blocks, or a combination of two blocks, you still need to select four courses for each block of time.
- Each course has a maximum number of students. Once a course is filled, second, third, and fourth choices will be considered.
- May Term is an opportunity for you to explore and develop your own personal interests. You should work individually on your May Term course selections (and not with your friends) and choose classes that interest you.
- If we are unable to place you in one of your top four choices, we will meet with you to discuss additional course choices.
- The student and parent must sign the registration form.
- **Completed registration forms need to be turned in to Mrs. Skiba by Monday, May 10, 2010.**

### **Issues Facing Newspaper Journalism featuring the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* \***

Blocks 1 & 2

Newspaper journalism faces many challenges as forms of media change. Blogs, Twitter, and online news sources are all challenges to the traditional print newspaper. However, some argue that all of these new options only underscore the need for what a print paper can provide. Through the viewing of film, a visit to the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, speakers working in print journalism in Pittsburgh, and our own writing and conversation, we will explore some of these issues facing journalism today. Student editors of *Voices*, our student newspaper, or those interested in joining the staff are strongly encouraged to sign up for this course, as is anyone interested in journalism or media.

### **Art Immersion: *Pittsburgh Public Theater Acting Shakespeare Workshop* \***

Block 1

Get your nose out of the book and experience Shakespeare in a new way ... through acting! Join Pittsburgh Public Theater instructor Lisa Ann Goldsmith in an exploration of acting in monologues and scenes from the works of William Shakespeare. Whether you are a beginner, who wants a better understanding of Shakespearean text to get a leg up on a literature class, or a drama student who would like to work on college monologues and get an edge for the Pittsburgh Public Theater's monologue and scene contest, this course could be just what you are looking for! No experience necessary.

### **Discover Pittsburgh \***

Blocks 1 & 2

Students will travel by public transportation and on foot to visit some of the historic neighborhoods of Pittsburgh, focusing on the architecture and local history. Places we may visit include:

- Downtown
- Oakland
- Southside
- Strip District
- Mt. Washington

We will meet briefly in the morning before departing around 9:00 a.m. and return to school in time for the third session (that start at 1:30 p.m.). We will eat lunch at local restaurants in the neighborhoods we visit.

### **Art Immersion: *Media Workshop at the Warhol and Artist Image Resource* \***

Blocks 2 & 3

Spend the week at the Andy Warhol Museum exploring the artist's complex relationship with the media. View Warhol's paintings, prints, films and collaborations. There will be hands-on projects such as making video screen tests and silkscreen self-portraits, as well as opportunities to explore filming techniques. Part of the week will be spent preparing and printing the self-portraits at the Artist Image Resource professional printmaking studio.

### **Anything Plants and Birds – Western Pennsylvania Horticulture and Ornithology \***

Block 3

What are your interests concerning plants and birds? Perhaps you would like to learn how to identify plants, shrubs, trees, or Pennsylvania birds and their habitats; investigate the history and technique of Bonsai; learn about hydroponics; plant, transplant, and tend flowering houseplants; grow herbs; visit a plant center, environmental center, conservatory, or aviary; or arrange flowers. This course will include learning about and working with a variety of these and other plant and bird topics depending upon the areas of interest of the participants.

## **Lifelong ACTIV-ities \***

Block 2

What activities do you like to do in your leisure time? Would you like to learn how to bowl or improve your game; would you like to hit some balls at a driving range; try your skill at Frisbee golf; check out kick boxing or spinning at a gym; investigate activities at the Science Center; or play interactive electronic games? All necessary equipment will be provided for each event. However, if you have your own equipment, feel free to bring it along. You should wear comfortable clothing, including socks and tennis shoes.

## **Mason Dixon to McKeesport Bike Trip \***

Monday – Friday, overnight

Spend four days and three nights on a 120 mile ride along the Allegheny Bicycle Trail. We will begin in Meyersdale, Pennsylvania and ride south across the continental divide, through the Big Savage Tunnel, and the Maryland border before returning to Meyersdale for an overnight stay. We will then stay in Ohiopyle and Connellsville before finishing our trip in McKeesport. We will stop at interesting sites all along the trail. This trip is not for biking novices, and registration has already been completed.

## **Art Immersion: Animation on Location \***

Blocks 2 & 3

Using Frame Thief animation software, at the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts Media Lab, students will collaborate on creating stop motion animations. Through in-class screenings of essential animation works and hands-on exercises students will explore a variety of stop-motion techniques. Animations will be completed using Final Cut Editing Software.

## **Art Immersion: Photography on Location \***

Blocks 2 & 3

Working with a Filmmaker's instruction from the Pittsburgh Center for the Arts, students will work with digital cameras and software to gain an understanding of the unique capabilities of digital photography. Students will work on composition, lighting, and manipulation of the digital image. There will be opportunities for some on-location photography. Students are encouraged to bring their own camera, if they have one.

## **Art Immersion: Glass Fusing at the *Pittsburgh Glass Center* \***

Blocks 1 & 2

Harnessing the heat of the kiln and using a wide spectrum of glass materials, students will create an array of functional works of art. By exploring multiple techniques (including the difference between full and tack fuses, kiln carving, mosaics and pendants) we will have you comfortably fusing in no time. Kiln theory, glass compatibility, cold working, slumping and more will be covered.

## **Art Immersion: Intensive with *Attack Theatre* \***

Block 2

Join Attack Theatre for an intensive dance experience in their studios. Each day will begin with a modern dance warm-up with live percussion accompaniment. The workshop will provide students with a glimpse into the company's rehearsal and creative process, as they work together to create a short, theatrical dance. This work-in-progress will be performed at the Winchester Thurston Dance Show on Tuesday, May 25!

## Games 'n At \*

Full Day

Spend the week at *Carnegie Mellon University's Entertainment Technology Center* learning about the mechanics of game design, the creative process of designing a game, and practicing what you learn by making your own game! You will build and decorate a game that you and your friends can test and play. Find out how you could turn your paper model into a computerized version!

## Art Immersion: Experience Pittsburgh Music \*

Block 2

Explore a world of music, from classical to jazz to rock!

Day 1 – Field Trip to the *Manchester Craftsman's Guild* for a performance and discussion of the jazz-rock fusion music of the 1970s and '80s, with MCG's newly-formed six-piece fusion band!

Day 2 – Classical Music Day with internationally-known, Pittsburgh-based, *Chatham Baroque!*

Day 3 – In the downtown studios of *Red Caiman Media* working on the recording and mixing experience!

Day 4 – Rock Music Day: songwriting and the music business, with special guest acclaimed Pittsburgh rock musician-songwriter, Bill Deasy, formerly of the Atlantic Records band *The Gathering Field!*

Day 5 – Maione and Band and "*The Kind of Gray Project*" performance and discussion!

## The Art of Painting on Silk

Block 3

Learn the age old art of painting on silk, a technique that combines the luxury of pure silk with original hand painted designs of French fashion flair. No other material produces such beautiful effects when combined with modern luminescent French dyes. Learn the Serti technique and come away with your own hand painted silk scarf.

## The Laugh's on You! An Introductory Course on Comedy Improv

Block 3

With the basic rules and a little practice, you will be able to amaze and entertain your friends with your quick wit and stand-up improv skills. This course is loosely based on the hit television show *Whose Line is it Anyway?*, and the competition of *Theater Sportz*. The course will end with an abbreviated *Theater Sportz* competition between teams.

## Rube Goldberg Scientific Invention Contest

Blocks 1 & 2

*Rube Goldberg*: (rōōb gōld'berg) n. a comically involved, complicated invention, laboriously contrived to perform a simple operation – *Webster's New World Dictionary*

As a group, you will invent a machine intended to dispense an appropriate amount of hand sanitizer in a hand - a rather simple, everyday task. However, you may not just "solve" the problem. The solution must be as complicated, elaborate, drawn out, and creative as possible. Using an assembly of ordinary objects and mechanical gadgets, your machine must perform the task in a minimum of ten distinct steps. The more imaginative the better!

## Podcasting 101

Block 1

In this introductory course on podcasting, students will use a variety of tools to create, edit, and publish a podcast from start to finish. Podcasts will be listened to and discussed. Apple's

*Garageband* and other software will be used to record and edit the podcast episodes. Various free services will be used to upload and host the media files. Students will learn tips and tricks to make their podcasts interesting. Creative students with stories to tell are welcome (and encouraged).

## **The Big Picture: The Mathematics of Art**

### Block 3

In this course, students will discuss, investigate, design, create, and assemble large pieces of mathematical art. Students will create large scale fractals, tessellations, polyhedra, golden rectangles, and other items of mathematical interest. Creative students with patience and a cooperative attitude are welcome.

## **Matrix Algebra with Applications**

### Block 1

Matrices, in their simplest form, are rectangular arrays of numbers. They are a natural way to organize, manipulate, and display information. Matrix algebra is a branch of mathematics that allows us to use matrices to solve complex problems. This course will introduce students to the vocabulary, techniques, and applications of matrices. Some of the applications we might explore are population modeling, transforming images as is done in video games, and uses in physics (vectors in particular). Technology will be used to carry out the mathematical operations associated with matrices. This course is for students who enjoy mathematics and wish to learn something that is not in our general curriculum. Students in this course should be in Algebra II or a higher level mathematics class.

## **Black Death and the Plague: Introduction to Epidemiology**

### Block 3

Throughout history human populations have suffered from large-scale death due to unknown causes. Many of these epidemics are reasonably well understood today: the bubonic plague, cholera, typhus, influenza, and HIV. Epidemiology is the study of the factors affecting the health and wellness of populations. Epidemiology also lays the foundation of interventions made in the interest of public health and preventive medicine. This course will introduce students to mathematical and statistical methods used in epidemiology. Case studies will be used to introduce and motivate topics.

## **Survival Techniques of MacGyver: The Origin of MacGruber**

### Block 2

You find yourself locked in a dark janitorial closet with a bomb ticking in the corner of the room. You look around and see nothing but a mop, a bucket, an old TV with a remote control, and a stapler. You reach in your pocket and find a ballpoint pen, chapstick, and some pocket lint. Using your limited supplies, how can you make it out alive? This is a typical scenario in which secret agent Angus MacGyver would find himself on the hit 1980s television show *MacGyver* (now parodied in the popular *MacGruber*). Using only his knowledge of physics, chemistry, technology, and outdoorsmanship, MacGyver would ingeniously use the limited resources around him to survive until the show's next airing. In this course, students will learn how to use everyday objects in atypical ways as MacGyver did. Students will be divided into small groups and will be given a scenario and a small number of supplies. The quest then begins; can you solve the problem and make it out alive?

## **Classic American Films**

### **Block 3**

What makes a film “classic?” How did the film industry change the way that we tell stories? How does American film inform our cultural identity? Participants will discuss and debate the answers to these questions and more after watching groundbreaking American films from a variety of genres. This course will also provide students with a basic introduction to critical skills for analyzing and interpreting film. Possible films to be screened include: *Singin’ in the Rain*, *Cape Fear*, *Psycho*, *Some Like it Hot*, *The Sweet Smell of Success*, *Citizen Kane*, and *High Noon*.

## **The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: The Archetype and Symbolism in Literature and Film of Fantasy**

### **Block 1**

An introduction to the archetype and symbolism through today’s popular cultural literature and film: featuring *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*. In this course, we will explore some ways in which symbols and images appear in modern literature and medievalist form, and how these are manifested into fantastical films.

## **Lost and Found: Exploring the Mysteries of the TV Series *Lost***

### **Block 1**

Since its premiere in September 2004, ABC’s *Lost* has mesmerized audiences with its compelling story of the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 who are trapped on a strange Pacific island. The show’s ambitious plot, intriguing characters, bewildering mysteries, rich mythology, and intricate allusiveness have generated hundreds of theories as to the purpose of the island and the fate of the survivors. With the series finale scheduled to air on May 23, participants in this course will have the opportunity to explore the literary, scientific, philosophical, and religious influences on the show; watch segments of important episodes; and discuss any final theories before the conclusion of one of the most epic stories ever produced for the television medium.

## **Personality Disorders in Film and Television**

### **Block 1**

Do you sometimes find people are just a little odd? Have you ever wished you had a better understanding of psychological diagnosis? In this course, we will discuss the meaning of “personality disorder” as defined in the worlds of Psychology and Psychiatry. We will talk about people who are excessively weird, wild, or worried, and discuss whether or not they fall within the (rather wide) range of normal. We will then watch several examples of each personality type in examples from movies and television. We will also discuss how students may be able to contribute their own sample clips to the class! By the end of the course, you will look at people, and all of your favorite characters, in a whole new way—guaranteed!

## **Old School Table Games**

### **Block 3**

Do you remember life before we had access to thousands of video games? Follow me to a simpler time when families and friends actually sat at the table together and had fun without staring at a screen! During this course, we will learn how to play several old school table games including: Scrabble, Scattergories, Pictionary, Spades, Taboo, and Trivial Pursuit. We will also explore alternate ways to play these games. At the end of the course, we will declare a “champion” for each game, so brush up on your skills before we begin!

## **What We Wore: Fashion and History**

### Block 2

Petticoats, corsets, knickers, spats ... clothing items of the past. Where does our modern sense of fashion come from? Come work with Lindsey Slauch, professional seamstress and historical costume designer, to answer these questions and learn more about the fashions of the past! Students will get to see reproductions of historical items of clothing in the classroom and take a field trip to see how clothing from that past is preserved. As part of the course, students will also create their own modern adaptation of a historical piece of clothing.

## **Law and Order: WT**

### Block 1

What makes a good cross-examination? What makes a witness believable? How do attorneys think about making an argument to persuade a jury? The *Law and Order* course will attempt to answer these questions through a workshop on strategies and techniques for the courtroom. We will use video clips, court room simulations, and a sample court case to work on cross-examinations and court room argument. A hate crimes case will serve as the focus for inquiry, allowing students to consider the role of both constitutional and statutory law in making a legal argument. All students interested in the law and the courtroom are welcome! Students who have been part of the mock trial team or are considering mock trial for next year are strongly encouraged to take this course.

## **Writing the College Essay**

### Block 3

In this intensive course, you will learn how to compose an appropriate personal statement to be part of your college application. In addition to reading sample essays, students will do exercises in style, clarity, and structure. In many cases, after doing multiple drafts, student will finish the course with an essay that could be used in the fall.

## **Smelting: Lab Extraction of Metals from their Ores**

### Blocks 1 & 2

Wikipedia describes smelting as: *more than just "melting the metal out of its ore." Most ores are a chemical compound of the metal with other elements, such as oxygen (as an oxide), sulfur (as a sulfide), or carbon and oxygen together (as a carbonate). To produce the metal, these compounds have to undergo a chemical reaction. Smelting consists of using suitable reducing substances that will combine with those oxidizing elements to free the metal.* Students will design and build their own smelting kilns and with some luck, we may even get a few nuggets of copper!

## **Get Paid! Professional Writing from Emails to Tweets**

### Block 1

This course will introduce students to the principles of writing in a professional manner and present options that they may use in future coursework and careers. Students will also learn the importance and influence of their online identities (on sites such as Facebook) as it pertains to their academic and professional careers.

## **Yoga**

### Block 3

For students new to yoga or those looking for a class to reduce tension. Learn breath and body awareness, optimal posture, and body mechanics. Focus on correct positioning of basic yoga poses to strengthen lower back, abdominal muscles, legs, and upper body. Students experience the meditative benefits of yoga. This class promotes balance, flexibility, and stress reduction.

## **The Story of India**

### Block 1

This course is an introduction to the history, culture, and people of India. The course follows the organization of the PBS/BBC documentary *The Story of India*, hosted by the British historian Michael Wood. Units of study include: Beginnings, The Power of Ideas, Spice Routes and Silk Roads, Ages of Gold, The Meeting of Two Oceans, and Freedom. If there is time and interest, we can study Bollywood Dream Factory and classical Indian music and dance.

## **The Buddha**

### Block 3

Who was the Buddha? What was the historical, religious, and philosophical background of Buddhism? How did a man from North India/Nepal give birth to one of the great religious and philosophical traditions in the world? How did the teachings of Buddhism spread throughout Asia, the Middle East, Europe and the world? Does Buddhism have any relevance to 21<sup>st</sup> Century Americans? We will use the PBS documentary to follow the birth, education, search for enlightenment, philosophy, ethics, and ideas of Buddhism embodied in the biography of one of the most influential human beings in the history of humanity. If there is interest and time, the class may be introduced to simple meditative techniques based on Buddhist practice and engage in experiment with "Buddhist ethics."

## **Jazz ... Revisiting the Acclaimed Ken Burns' Video Documentary**

### Block 3

Listen, watch, discuss, feel, and experience America's music ... Jazz! Learn about the liberating effect of swing jazz during and post-WWII ... Billie Holiday and Strange Fruit ... Bird, Trane, Dizzy, and Satchmo ... playing through the changes ... cool, bop, and free. Understand how racial barriers affected the music, and vice versa. Meet jazz royalty: the Count and the Duke, *Hello Dolly*, and the Beatles. Learn the roots of jazz and embrace the music that objectifies giving us a painless way of understanding ourselves.

## **Horsemanship and Animal Behavior**

### Full Day

Students will be introduced to the basics of horse care and riding. Students will learn how to safely groom, feed, and care for horses; how to tack up a horse for riding; and how to mount, dismount, and ride a horse. Students should wear clothes appropriate for the weather and hard-soled footwear, preferably boots. An indoor riding arena is available if needed, but we will aim to spend time trail riding in beautiful Pennsylvania State Game Lands each day. The emphasis will be on safety and fun in getting to know these fascinating and friendly creatures. Let's saddle up and ride!

## **World Religions: A Comparative Reflection**

### Block 2

We live in a global village with the world at our fingertips. Our experience of life and reality make it necessary to grow into a healthy sense of diversity of cultures and religions. In this course we will look at the five Major Religions (Wisdom Traditions) of the world: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Judaism. We will ask what they have in common and what they do not, and we will also explore the idea that perhaps they are five different paths to the same destination.

## **Asking the Right Questions: A Foray into the Art of Critical Thinking**

### Block 1

We live in a media-savvy world ... a world that is at our fingertips. The amount of information at our disposal, through all forms of media, is simply astounding. This sheer mass of data presents us

with a challenge: how do we evaluate information critically? How do we read, think, write, and react critically to so much information. This course will examine the basic principles of the art of thinking critically, and will include discussions that are sure to be thought-provoking.

## **Decorative Mosaics**

### **Block 3**

This is a hands-on course that will inspire students to explore the potential of mosaic as a medium of personal expression. Color, pattern, and texture combine to make mosaics visually appealing art forms. Each student will be using materials such as glass, beads, pebbles, shells, china, and ceramic tiles to create a variety of projects, including mirror/picture frames, pots, coasters, wall plaques, or paving stones. The finished products will be a variety of colorful, imaginative mosaic projects.