

SHP COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2010

ART - Many traditional crafts have fused with new technologies to greatly influence fine arts processes and products. This year the SHP Art Class will emphasize sculptural concepts intrinsic to the **field of ceramics**. Students will have the chance to hand build, wheel throw, kiln fire and glaze their own clay projects. Students will also address the critical question of what, if anything separates craft, design and technology from “art” and what value is there in making such distinctions? Field trips and/or visiting artists as well as other individual explorations should also transpire, culminating in a final show of work.

COMPUTER SCIENCE - The computer science class will be working with **Geospatial Technologies**. We will use mapping-grade GPS devices for data collection and use GIS software to analyze, manipulate, and interpret the data. Students will learn how spatial intelligence is changing the way the government, industries, and even non-profits make important decisions. We will use industry-standard software and mobile devices with extremely high accuracy to create interactive, data-driven maps and other visualizations. Topics will include data modeling, geocoding, and web mapping, among others.

CREATIVE WRITING - The creative writers will read and write poetry and prose, focusing on both what works and what doesn't. Their time will be organized around a workshop model, allowing students to discover, through interaction, what they like and value, as well as key techniques for improving writing. Students will become skilled at revision, and by dissecting and listening to published works, they will gain a deeper understanding of their own voice and its connection to contemporary literature. As usual, students will then publish their writing in the annual *SHP Creative Writing Class Anthology*, which they will design, organize, and put together.

DRAMA - The drama program offered in this laboratory school will be a play chosen to enhance the talents of the students. Students in Creative Drama will produce a theatrical production to be presented twice at the end of the two-week session. Students will experience some or all phases of drama production, which may include acting (characterization, movement and voice) singing, dancing and technology (scenery, lighting, sound, costumes, and make-up), as well as analysis of the playwright, the historic context of the script, and theater etiquette. The Phelps County Center for Performing Arts, the Tassel in Holdrege, and the Minden Opera House in Minden will give students the opportunity to work on a professional quality stage with the latest in theater technology.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP - The 2010 Entrepreneurship class will create a nonprofit organization, "EntrePress, Inc." and will research, write, edit and publish the non profit's first book--title forthcoming. The idea came out of a conversation the instructor had with two students during the 2009 class. A couple of years ago there was a horrid ice storm in the area that took down power lines, closed whole towns and, generally, wasn't any fun for several weeks. Not enough people had batteries, kerosene, candles, cell phone chargers (the cell towers were up) or knew where to get them--there was quite a list. So the book will be a sort of "Who-Has-What" for emergencies. The book will be made available at a nominal cost. Neighbors, friends and community persons will be interviewed so it will be known who might have something that is needed. Many people, for example, just didn't know that they could charge their cell phone from the car battery. Proceeds will go to SHP. During the session, the students will learn and use research tools to gather demographics, geographies, will learn about nonprofit funding mechanisms, the differences between for profit and nonprofit accounting, articles of incorporation, by-laws, investors--oh, non profits can't have investors--the class should provide the students with tools and learning techniques that can help them through high school, college and beyond. This will be a very busy, high-energy session and each student will have specific responsibilities.

FILM PRODUCTION - The 2010 Summer Honors Film Production Class (using the Hollywood Model) is being offered as a ONE TIME ONLY class. Students will explore the artistic and technical elements of film production as they create multiple silent and non-sync two-minute films as well as an eight-minute class narrative project to be written, shot and edited during the two week course. Elements of story structure, sound design, narrative editing, and special effects will be covered. Students will also create a five-minute documentary covering the SHP experience

LOGIC - The aim of the course is to introduce the students to the main tools of critical thinking, logic and inquiry skills by means of cooperative discussions. The dialog will center on topics that are of interest to the students and that enable them to discover a philosophical dimension in their lives. We approach problems and issues with an attitude of awareness about our own limitations, and work on figuring out how to improve our thinking processes. Everything is subject to discussion, and will be connected to the five areas of philosophy: logic (study of reason), epistemology (study of knowledge), aesthetics (study of beauty), ethics (study of morals and justice) and metaphysics (study of world). The students will be studying those heavy subjects with their own terminology. The instructor must learn their way of communication, instead of the students learning from the communication of the instructor. The students will be asked to read texts from various sources, new and old. Some are heavy philosophical writings, others lighter. Discussing difficult texts can be fun, especially if the text is used as a bridge between the author's and the student's world.

MATH - This year the Mathematical Connections class will explore the **Mathematics of Games**. We'll see how and why the house always wins in typical casino games and explore some of the history behind games of chance. We'll also explore the mathematics of many other games including Sudoku, and the students will have the opportunity to design their own game of chance for an SHP-wide carnival they will run.

MEDICAL SCIENCE - The Medical Science program offered in this laboratory school will include an overview of the field of medical science and will include academic experiences in the methods of medical research, tours of laboratories actively involved in scientific research, and an opportunity to observe scientific research in progress. Students will participate in many hands-on experiences in order to learn about various health care professions. In addition to scheduled tours and discussion periods, students will be able to observe various medical procedures. The students in Medical Science will attend the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha during the first week, and spend time observing/shadowing health professionals in various health care centers in or near the ESU #11 area during the second week of the program.

SCIENCE - World Health Issues. This course will examine health issues faced by people around the world. Topics will include infectious diseases, pandemics, chronic diseases, and health problems caused by environmental factors. Immune system function and role of genetics in disease will also be investigated. Materials will be drawn from the Center for Disease Control, National Institute of Health and Howard Hughes Medical Institute and other leading health Organizations.

SOCIAL SCIENCE - The 2010 SHP Social Science class will focus on **the study of the Middle East**. There will be an in-depth study of the geography, politics, culture, history and religion of this strategic area of the world. There are few regions on Earth that influence the global community more than this small geographical area of the world. The class will focus on the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan and Egypt. The class will be involved in basic research using the internet and library resources; there will be student interaction through guided dialogue and discussion; the creation of a World Cafe project for all students of SHP; class members will develop an online survey; conduct interviews using YouTube and other social networks; and each student will develop a final "capstone project" for presentation at the conclusion of the course. This course will provide a unique opportunity for students to better understand their role in shaping opinions and ideas in their home communities about a region of the world that has been tumultuous for 5000 years. Each student is assured that they will leave the course with improved research and writing skills along with the ability to become a more discerning learner.