TOWNSEND HARRIS HIGH SCHOOL @ QUEENS COLLEGE
Kenneth Bonamo, Principal

ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS

SPRING 2009

NOTE: ALL PROGRAMS AND COURSE OFFERINGS ARE SUBJECT TO BUDGETARY LIMITATIONS

FINE ARTS

ART HISTORY **A2PHAH1**

The course offers students the ability to develop an understanding of the historical traditions in the visual arts, to teach students methods of analysis and interpretation of the meaning of works of art, and to help students learn to evaluate the quality of works of art. Students will acquire a group of skills which enable them to solve problems, communicate effectively, and establish a system for evaluation based on both visual and written language.

PHOTOGRAPHY **VA2HAC1**

This course will be offered as an elective to students who have completed a required art class and have a foundation in the elements and principles of art. The class will focus on Photography as a medium of communication and a tool for self-expression. The objective will be to familiarize the students with the fundamentals of picture taking and darkroom skills, as well as the history and aesthetics of photography as an art form.

Prerequisite: Required Art

FROM STILL TO THE MOVING IMAGE **VA2HACM1**

This course will analyze media arts production and theory. It will provide the appreciation of the creative potential of the moving image and other dynamic media. While this course emphasizes film, it is important to note the impact of photography within the film medium. The purpose of this inclusion is to help students acquire the historical understanding and artistic sensibility essential to produce high quality media work. Emphasizing the areas of film style, narrative structure and genre, lectures will provide an introduction to the common bond between still photography and filmmaking. Students will be provided with the basic conceptual tools needed to respond to and evaluate the artistic merits of individual works using digital computer cams, wireless images, digital video (Final Cut Pro), lectures, demonstrations and the critical viewing and evaluation of photographs and film clips. They will study camera operations, script writing, basic theory of materials and process, film exposure, timing, directing and editing.

Prerequisite: Art History or Workshop in Artistic Exploration and Photography or Stage Craft Technology.

PHOTOJOURNALISM **(JUNIORS AND SENIORS ONLY)** **AE2HAFJL**

Students will learn all aspects of yearbook production from designing a cover and end sheets to compiling an index for producing the school's yearbook in the spring term. Students also learn how to assign, write, edit and enter copy on a computer; how to take and crop both color and black and white photographs; how to conduct a publicity campaign; how to select a graphic theme for each section and to lay out all spreads; and how to transfer the page layout of copy from final layout sheets to a computer program designed and used by a professional publishing company.

WORKSHOP IN ARTISTIC EXPLORATION **A2PHADCA**

This course is designed to explore two-dimensional and three-dimensional techniques including paper maché, collage, painting, and drawing, among others. Emphasis is on developing the individual's sense of color, form and design through hands-on experience. Projects are supplemented with related art history lessons which serve as guides toward stimulating the students' own creativity. The following are some examples of projects: paper maché masks/ Fantasy; composition/Surrealism; landscape collage/Fauvism; overlapping still life, composition/Cubism.

ADVANCED DRAWING AND PAINTING **AJ2HAMD1**

This course concentrates on drawing as a design tool, from the initial stages of a concept's inception to its ultimate form in representation for studio review. The intent is to encourage fluency through intensive drawing and to discover the potential of the language of drawing through experiencing a variety of media, from charcoal and pencil to pastel and acrylic paint. Color will be an important aspect of our investigation: the role it plays in enhancing a sense of form, creating space and light.

Prerequisite: Art History or Workshop in Artistic Exploration.

INDEPENDENT STUDY - ANIMATION **VA20ALO**

Independent study in art and/or approved Queens College course(s) are required for a three-year sequence in art.

Prerequisite: Art History or Workshop in Artistic Exploration and Advanced Drawing

Note: Students must obtain permission of the teacher and the Department Supervisor to take this course.

INDEPENDENT STUDY – ADVANCED PHOTOGRAPHY **VA2OAC1O**

Independent study in art and/or approved Queens College course(s) are required for a three-year sequence in art.

Note: Students must obtain permission of the Department Supervisor to take this course.

HUMANITIES

CONFLICT RESOLUTION **HH2HPINT**

This course teaches students negotiation and mediation skills and helps them explore the nature of conflict, anger, and communication. They will learn listening and speaking skills, and will be able to talk through (negotiate) their own conflicts and be a neutral third party and help others to solve their conflicts peaceably (mediate). Finally, they will practice teaching these skills to other students.

LAW SEMINAR I **HL2HLAW1**

In this course the student will develop an awareness of one's rights and responsibilities under the law. The criminal justice system will be explored. Among the methods used will be discussion of landmark Supreme Court decisions, speakers, visits to court, moot court, and dramatization. The controversial legal problems of the day will be addressed as they occur. There will be a unit on the rights of students and one on juvenile justice.

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP **EW2HCW**

Students in a workshop setting will learn the techniques of writing poems, short stories, and one-act plays. They will have the opportunity to read their work aloud for class feedback. Students will also be encouraged to submit selected work for publication in the school magazine, Phoenix.

E^3 = EARTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND ECOLOGY **EH2HEEE**

We will not "put up a parking lot." Through the study of the visual arts, music, literature, history, and science, students will investigate the ideas behind Al Gore's inconvenient truths related to global warming and the environmental beauty that has inspired so many artists. Get ready to sing and/or speak out because we're going to write and produce radio broadcast features, as well as other creative works, celebrating the environment and advocating programs to help conserve it. Students will use digital recorders to create audio scrapbooks and computer editing programs to record concise radio shows. The polar bears will thank you.

CLASSIC FILMS **EC2HFILM**

Classic Film introduces students to the "classics" - some of the greatest films ever made. Beginning with Charlie Chaplin, the course continues to the present, and introduces stars and directors such as Humphrey Bogart, Alfred Hitchcock, Audrey Hepburn, Gene Kelly, Marlon Brando, Marilyn Monroe and more. In this class, students will study basic film techniques, watch selected films and discuss the reasons audiences have enjoyed these movies for so many years. Students will become familiar with some of the best-loved movies and movie stars of all time as well as learn to better appreciate today's films.

THE COMIC MUSE **EL2HMUSE**

Life is serious, but we don't have to take it too seriously. The comic ways in which men and women--from the ancient Greeks to contemporary comedians--have "taken" life are examined in this course. Humor can be physical or intellectual; bawdy and hilarious, or ironic and subtle. What makes a situation comic? What makes a joke good? Why do we laugh at Aristophanes, Swift, Twain, Groucho Marx and Eddie Murphy? How is comedy related to tragedy?

EKPHRASIS **EW2HEKPH**

Ekphrasis - an interdisciplinary workshop combining art, literature, math, science, history and music, Ekphrasis (sometime spelled ecphrasis) is a course in observation, sketching and writing what one sees. Come along and take a tour through galleries, museums and the city itself; pack your sketchbook and a pen and capture characters, iconic structures such as the Brooklyn Bridge and the Statue of Liberty; find a work of art that you have always loved or have yet to discover, and then experience *ekphrasis*: the art of putting pictures into words and bringing those pictures to life. The final project will be a bound collection of sixteen well-wrought pieces of poetry and prose that capture the visual language. We shall observe Joseph Stella's *Brooklyn Bridge*, Rousseau's *Carnival Evening* and at least twenty other works of art to begin our tour and serve as inspiration. No artistic ability necessary.

LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH

All courses are continuations of classes that began in fall, 2008

MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER SCIENCE

THE MATHEMATICS OF BUSINESS **MM2HBUSM**

Students will develop an understanding of business concepts relating to general management, marketing, accounting, finance, human resource management, entrepreneurship and technology. This course is recommended for students who have an interest in business concepts and careers and have a strong mathematics background. It is intended as an introductory course to provide students with a wide range of business topics.

Prerequisite: Completed Math B

MUSIC

BEGINNING INSTRUMENTS **U2PHUDB1**

This course offers a hands-on experience for students who have never learned to play a band instrument. Knowing how to read music is helpful, but not a requirement. Students will learn proper care and maintenance of their chosen instruments as well as simple melodies and harmony in classical and popular music. The instruments we provide are flute, clarinet, alto and tenor saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, bass guitar mallet percussion and drums. This is a non-performing group.

Note: Instruments will be provided by the school.

CHORUS WORKSHOP **U2PHUVC**

This course concentrates on the art of performing, with attention to singing technique, the skill of reading music, music theory and music history. Sophomores and juniors may take the course as an elective; freshmen may take it in lieu of a required music course.

Prerequisite: Audition

CONCERT BAND **VA2HUDCB**

The Concert Band plays at the winter and spring concerts and at other school functions. The focus will be on group and sectional parts of arrangements geared toward performance. Individual advancement of technique, phrasing and a variety of musical periods, forms and styles will be experienced. The list of choices of instruments is the same as for the beginning and intermediate instruments classes.

Prerequisite: Completion of the Beginning and Intermediate Instrument courses, or equivalent, and an audition. Open to sophomores (who have completed required Art), juniors and seniors.

Note: Instruments will be provided by the school.

INTERMEDIATE INSTRUMENTS **UD2HUDT2**

This course is for students who have recently had the beginning course or have studied a band instrument for at least one year. Furthering technique, musical phrasing and full band arrangements in popular and classical music will be the focus. Knowledge of musical theory will be introduced. The choice of instruments is the same as for the beginning instrument course with the addition of baritone saxophone and bass clarinet. This group must perform at our annual spring concert.

Prerequisite: Beginning Instruments 1, or its equivalent, and an audition.

Note: Instruments will be provided by the school.

JAZZ ENSEMBLE **UR2HURJ2**

This course is open to students who have completed at least one semester of Intermediate Instruments. The Jazz Ensemble performs at the winter and spring concerts and at other events. The focus will be on rehearsal of performance repertoire in a variety of jazz styles, as well as basic music theory, jazz improvisation, jazz history, and listening to classic jazz recordings. The instruments in the Jazz Ensemble are saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, guitar, bass, and percussion.

Prerequisite: Completion of Beginning and Intermediate Instrument courses (not needed for piano and guitar), and an audition.

MUSIC THEORY AND KEYBOARD **U2PHUTP1**

This class is a comprehensive introduction to music theory, and piano/ keyboard performance, covering the basic principles of classical, pop and other styles. The emphasis throughout is on learning by creating, performing, and listening to music. Though this is an academic course, we try not to lose sight of the fact that music is something that brings us joy.

Note: Instruments will be provided by the school.

CHAMBER MUSIC ENSEMBLE - FOR ADVANCED MUSICIANS **VA2HUMM2**

This experienced mixed instrumental and vocal ensemble studies and performs chamber music at school events and competitions. The repertoire may focus on Western classical music but will expand to pop and ethnic music. Students will practice in small groups and master performance skills and musicianship, then they will rehearse in the larger group in preparation for an end-of-semester concert. Instrumentation includes traditional classical instruments (strings - violin, viola, cello and bass, guitar, percussion, and piano) and voice.

Note: Instruments will be provided by the school.

Prerequisite: Audition

INDEPENDENT STUDY – MUSIC RECORDING

Independent study in music and/or approved Queens College course(s) are required for a three-year sequence in music.

Note: Students must obtain the permission of the Department Supervisor to take this course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SENIORS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

Basketball, Body Sculpting, Bowling, Physical Conditioning, Volleyball, Weight Management

SOPHOMORES' AND JUNIORS' PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSES

Aerobics, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Tennis, Volleyball (Zero Band), Weight Management

AEROBICS **PF1GAERO**

The entire semester will be devoted to aerobics. Students will use aerobic steps to learn and practice step aerobics. Students will be required to develop their own routines. No prior aerobic experience is necessary. Appropriate physical fitness exercises will be a part of this course.

BASKETBALL **PT2GBK/PT2GSBK**

Students will learn all aspects of basketball and be involved in tournament competition. Students will participate in sport specific fitness exercises which will help enhance their performance.

BODY SCULPTING **PF2GSCON**

Body Sculpting is a class to shape and tone your muscles without the intimidation of using heavy weights or machines. The workouts are intense as well as fun as you listen to your favorite tunes. The class will focus on full-body workouts using dumbbells and resistance bands. The weights are light and the repetitions are high, so feel that burn!

BOWLING **PE2GBW/PE2BSBW**

This class meets twice a week for approximately 1 1/2 hours at the end of the day at Jib Lanes (bands 9&10). All skill levels are welcome. As a culminating activity, teams will be formed for a tournament. There is an $80 fee (approximately) for the term which is due the first week the class meets. This covers all costs including shoe and ball rental as well as prizes and trophies.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONING **PF2GSPC**

The objective of this co-ed class is to acquire knowledge that will enable students to further appreciate the benefits of maintaining a healthy body and to use the various weight training and cardiovascular equipment properly and safely. The students will also learn how to monitor their heart rates after performing cardiovascular activity to maximize the workout. The equipment available at Fitzgerald Gym includes treadmills, bicycles, cable weight training machines, dumb bells and barbells. Come train for your sport; it'll be a blast!

SPORTS: MATH & SCIENCE IN ACTION **PC2HSCIS**

This elective will explore the science and the mathematics that exist behind sport and activity. The course will include topics such as the biomechanical analysis of human movement, exercise physiology, and sport psychology as well as the influence of angles, trajectories and speed on various sporting implements. One does not have to be a superstar athlete to appreciate a properly executed athletic performance. This class will provide an opportunity for those who are interested in sports and activities to look at these topics with an entirely different lens.

SOCCER **PT2GSOCR**

The entire semester will be devoted to soccer. Students will learn the required skills such as dribbling, shooting, passing, shielding, defending, goal keeping and positioning. They will also be educated on the traditional rules of the game. Appropriate physical fitness exercises will be part of this course. The class will finish with a competitive tournament.

TENNIS **PE2GTN**

The entire semester will be devoted to tennis. This class meets twice a week on the Queens College tennis courts for approximately 1 1/2 hours. It is designed for students who wish to learn how to play tennis. Basic strokes, rules and scoring will be emphasized. Students will learn all aspects of tennis and be involved in tournament competition. Participants in this course must provide their own racquets and tennis balls.

VOLLEYBALL (ZERO BAND FOR SOPHOMORES AND JUNIORS) **PT2GVB/PT2GSVB**

Students will learn all aspects of volleyball and be involved in tournament competition. Students will participate in sport specific fitness exercises which will help enhance their performance.

Note: Volleyball for sophomores and juniors meets zero band 3 days a week.

WEIGHT MANAGEMENT **PF2GWT/PF2GSWT**

The purpose of the Weight Management class is to primarily instill a commitment to health and fitness for life. Within the weight management class is weight training. The class stresses the increase of strength in all body parts, such as, shoulders, chest, back, legs, biceps and triceps. Symmetry and proper form are required in all lifts, which are closely supervised. Aerobic activity is done once a week to burn unnecessary body fat and increase cardiovascular fitness.

SCIENCE

ADVANCED TOPICS IN SCIENCE **SD2OSDA1**

This half-credit lunch band course is designed to expose students to new topics in science, show how science works and emphasize hands-on, minds-on, collaborative problem solving. Students will develop a greater understanding of, and appreciation for, scientific principles through the in-depth explorations of three topics of their choosing selected from among the following areas: biology and the health sciences; chemistry and food science; earth and space science; theoretical and applied engineering; and applied physics such as building towers, trebuchets, model airplanes or musical instruments. This course will help prepare those students interested in participating in the Science Olympiad gain the skills needed to succeed.

Requirements

1. Students will meet with their instructor 2 days per week.
2. Department Approval is required

Prerequisities: Regents Biology and a 90 average in science or an 85 average and the recommendation of a science teacher.

Notes: This course may be repeated for credit with the permission of the AP Science. This lunch band class does not restrict you from taking another elective.

Biomedical Ethics (JUNIORS AND SENIORS) **SB1HSBME**

This one term, student-centered course is designed for juniors and seniors. Students will have the opportunity to investigate and debate many controversial aspects of medicine, biology and scientific research. At the beginning of the semester, a list of topics such as: stem cell research, cloning, genetic modification and/or animal testing will be distributed to the students. Students will select the topic they will investigate on a first-come, first-served basis. A presentation to the class and a 15 page paper discussing both the pros and cons of the topic will be an important component of the course work.. The student(s) covering a particular topic will be responsible for the development of lesson plans that span two to three class periods which will allow the other students to develop an appreciation for the issues and will moderate a debate of the topic. The prior to a presentation reading (selected by the presenter(s)) will be assigned to the rest of the class, along with key questions to be answered. Students listening to the presentation will be responsible for writing a one–two page reaction paper for each presentation and are responsible for completing all assignments. Grades will be based on presentations, the quality of moderation of the debates, and the quality of the written papers (15 page report and all one-two page reaction papers.)

Pre-Requisites: Regents Biology, Chemistry

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FORENSIC SCIENCE **ST2HSFT1**

This course focuses on problem-solving, with special emphasis on the synthesis of information gathered through experimentation and forensic research methodologies, to propose theories and develop evidence-based conclusions. Students will learn about crime scene analysis and will use technology in developing their understanding of forensic science. Students will be given access to current forensic science equipment such as DNA electrophoresis. Students will write reports that record their results, conclusions and analyses of case studies and investigations they conduct.

Pre-Requisites: Regents Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, which may be taken as a co-requisite.

ROBOTICS **SD2HSKC3**

Students will build and program small mobile robots and learn the basic principles and techniques of robotics. Initially, students will learn to adapt a simple robot by making small changes, and by the end of the semester they will be designing, building, programming, and debugging robots from scratch. This course presents an overview of robotics in practice and research with topics including vision, motion planning, sensors, remote control systems, autonomous operations and artificial intelligence. An important component of the course will be course projects: students will construct several microcontroller driven robots with each project addressing a particular engineering challenge. This course will expose students to some of the cutting edge technologies in robotics, including current robot lab research and application. Students will enter their robots into competitions such as US First, Battle Bots, and the Science Olympiad.

Note:

This course may be repeated for credit with the permission of the AP Science.