

Westmount Charter School
Grade 9 Course Descriptions
2018 - 2019

REQUIRED COURSES

Humanities 9

Humanities 9 is a multidisciplinary approach to English Language Arts and Social Studies. Humanities 9 will intertwine literature with notions of governance, economics, citizenship, quality of life and identity. Students will thoroughly develop reading, writing, listening, speaking, viewing and representing skills. Students will participate in a rigorous high school context fostering critical and creative thinking skills and developing positive relationships

Mathematics 9

The mathematics curriculum is shaped to foster the development of mathematically literate students. It is developed so that students can extend and apply their learning as an active and constructive process. The grade 9 mathematics curriculum consists of the analysis of change, consistency, number sense, patterns, relationships and spatial reasoning through the study of Patterns and relations, Shape and Space and Statistics and Probability. The mathematical processes used include communication, mental mathematics, estimation, problem solving and technology.

For Math 10/20/30 please see high school course handbook.

Science 9

Science 9 builds on knowledge gained in earlier science courses. Each unit focuses on a major theme within science and will prepare the student to take further courses in the natural and physical sciences. There are five units: Biological Diversity, Matter and Chemical Change, Environmental Chemistry, Electrical Principles and Technologies, Space Exploration.

Health & Physical Education 9

The students are exposed to aspects of the general outcomes (Activity, Benefits Health, Cooperation and Do It Daily For Life), as well as the basic skills progress from “the selection” to “the refinement” of locomotor, non-locomotor and manipulative skills. Health is included in the PE curriculum, including topics such as drugs, alcohol, relationships and sexual education. Field trips typically include squash and rock climbing.

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS OPTIONS

Art 9

Students will expand their skills and work with a variety of materials to create individual works of art. Students will have the opportunity to explore themes and techniques of interest to them and push their creativity.

Drama 9

In Drama 9 we will focus on scene study, objectives and tactics, character and voice work. We learn the skills of armed and unarmed stage fighting, and special effects makeup. Each class will have an opportunity to demonstrate components of the course through performances.

Intermediate Band (Level III) 9

Prerequisite: Junior 7 Band or minimum 2 years of band experience

This course is for grade 8/9 students with at least 2 years of experience on their instrument, and previous experience playing in a Concert Band. Study is more in-depth than in Junior Band and requires strong commitment to a regular practice routine. The level of difficulty of the music begins the year at Grade 3 and the year ends with some grade 4 repertoire.

SUPPLEMENTARY OPTIONS

Learning Strategies 9

Learning Strategies is a class designed to support grade 9 students as they manage their learning in other courses. The nature of the course is practical as students will be supported to increase their understanding of their own learning needs and select strategies to foster academic growth in terms of skills and understanding. Personal organization and planning will also be supported as students learn to take greater responsibility for the demands and expectations of their other classes throughout the year. (Full year, every second day)

French 9 (9 year)

Prerequisite: French 8

Open to any student who wants to have fun, learn a second language and about Francophone culture. Great transition course between mid-school and high school French. In French 9, students work on sports, housing, and arts in French Canada. Lots of group projects and skits. In the course, students expand their conjugations and vocabulary tremendously. Movie and novel studies are the two novelties of French 9 in preparation for high school.

Francophone Culture and Language

Recommendation: 5 years in French immersion

Prerequisite: equivalent of FSL 5-9Y

The course will be taught exclusively in French, every day for a term.

The content of this course will change on a year to year basis to allow the course to be repeated for credit.

This year, the course will focus on the study of French language, francophone culture and relevant current affairs internationally.

Both written texts and oral communication will be key components of this course.

*Students may register in French 10-9Y OR French Immersion, not both.

Spanish 9 (6 year)

Prerequisite: Spanish 8

In this course, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate listening, oral, and written skills in Spanish in different settings. In this level students are introduced to Spanish literature, culture and more advanced grammatical structure.

Journalism 9

Students will experience journalism in the form of print, online, radio and film, as well as hosting guest speakers who work in the field. Students will write and produce the bi-monthly student newspaper, "The Westmount Wire". The classroom itself will have a newsroom atmosphere where students report, photograph and assemble the paper and the instructor is their editor. We will meet at the beginning of each class to discuss story ideas progress and to critique completed stories while the bulk of the class is used to work on individual pieces intended to go to print. Students will work independently, researching and preparing news, feature, editorial and investigative articles.

Film Studies 9

In this course we will examine traditional movies as well as the film genre John Grierson describes as the "creative treatment of actuality," ie. The documentary. Students will be exposed to films spanning cinematic genres including Film Noir, Comedy, Thriller, Early Silent, Foreign, etc. The course will be equal parts film study and film production, as students will come together as a class to produce their own documentary piece.

Over the course of this semester we will:

- View and examine films (critically, creatively, from a research aspect in writing and in discussion)
- Consult with professionals working in the field and discuss their creative and production process (for instance, what it's like to see a film through from inception right to its presentation).
- Instruction in various production skills necessary to create a video documentary
- Completion of series of exercises from conceptualization through post-production, culminating in production of a short documentary (to be worked on and completed as a class).

Kaboom! 9

Friedrich Nietzsche, The Batman, Jack Kirby, The Matrix, Joseph Campbell, The Punisher and Jim Lee all have something in common. In this course we look at contemporary media, philosophy, visual arts, and the production process. Using media students can relate to and are inundated with, the instructors introduce several veins of philosophical thought, and students are requested to ask themselves some deep questions about who they are. We look at the development of character through the eyes of philosophy, video game design, graphic novels and film. Students are introduced to character design - basic proportion, anatomy and aesthetic choices surrounding characters. We ask students to use these concepts to develop characters and explore what these questions really mean. During the last half of the course students are formed into production teams that mimic a real world comic book studio. In groups of three, students will choose the role of the writer, penciller or inker and develop a small graphic novel. These graphic novels should allow students to illustrate the culmination of their learning and provide them with a new way to address philosophical and real world issues.

Environmental/Outdoor Education 9

The grade 9 year of the Westmount outdoor education program will focus on outdoor recreation and environmental sustainability in a wilderness setting. Calgary's close proximity to many wilderness options represents a multitude of possible outdoor recreational experiences for students. Moving these to a wilderness setting will require a deeper look into systems and processes both at a recreational and scientific level. Students will take part in various educational and recreational based trips including an overnight excursion to a wilderness area. Responsible outdoor skills, fitness and understanding will be the focus.

Epistemology 9

The Epistemology 9 course is modelled on the IB program of studies but with the Inside-Out focus utilized at Westmount Charter. It challenges students and their teachers to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and areas of knowledge, and to consider the role which knowledge plays in a global society. It encourages students to become aware of themselves as thinkers, to become aware of the complexity of knowledge, and to recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected world. As a thoughtful and purposeful enquiry into different Ways of Knowing, and into different Areas of Knowledge, the Epistemology 9 course is composed almost entirely of questions. The major question examined: What is Truth?

Model UN 9

Model UN is a humanities based option. Students gain experience participating in a Model UN simulation, as well as learning about foreign policy, global conflict, geography, and Canada's role in international organizations. Most of the course is a simulation where students can hone their public speaking, debate, and role-playing skills. This is recommended for students who wish to join our high school Model UN and debate teams.

Yoga 9

Yoga 9 is a continuation of yoga 8, building upon the roots and philosophy of the eight limbs of ashtanga yoga. There is no prerequisite for this course. Each class will include a guided meditation as well as a physical asana practice. Students will have an opportunity to experience various styles of yoga as well as an exploration of the chakra system. Working with elements such as breathing, mindfulness and stretching, students will acquire skills to self-regulate their emotions and become self-aware. No yoga experience is necessary, just a willingness to be with your breath on the mat.

Art of Mathematics 9

Students will explore topics in analysis, perspective, shapes, patterns, balance, symmetry, ratio, and proportion while creating art. Math is often likened to art; this course will allow students to experience how math and art compliment each other.