

# High School Electives

## Course Descriptions

### 2023 - 24

#### Introduction:

These courses represent the totality of offerings at the Einstein School. Their inclusion does not mean they are offered every year; many are based on student interest and/or minimum enrollment in the class. Contact us if you have a question regarding the availability of particular classes.

#### **Abnormal Psychology**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Psychology*

This course explores major psychological disorders as classified in the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5). Through lectures, demonstrations, and class discussions, students learn about normal and abnormal relationship behavior, as well as the specific characteristics of psychological disorders, potential causal factors, associated features of disorders, and potential treatment methods.

#### **Accounting I**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

Students in this course investigate the field of accounting, its terminology and procedures, its social, legal, and ethical factors, and its impact by and on industry standards. Students record, classify, summarize, analyze, and communicate accounting information as well as interpret the kind of financial information that is used in management decision making.

#### **Accounting II**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Accounting I*

This course continues the investigation of the field of accounting, including how it is affected by industry standards as well as economic, financial, technological, international, social, legal, and ethical factors. Students will reflect on this knowledge as they engage in various managerial, financial, and operational accounting activities. Students will use equations, graphical representations, accounting tools, spreadsheet software, and accounting systems in real-world situations to maintain, monitor, control, and plan the use of financial resources.

**Animation***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

In this class, we will learn how to use different tools to bring our art to life, both analog and digital. The principles of stop motion, motion capture, and frames are fundamental to animation and will be heavily explored.

**Business Information Management***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

This course offers students a chance to gain vital computer application skills that will allow them to keep pace in our ever-evolving world of technology. The focus of this course is the ethical business application of software including word processing, spreadsheet, database, presentation software, and desktop publishing. Students will also be guided in responsible internet use, awareness of computer operations, and insight into current trends and advances in the world of technology. BIM offers students an opportunity to develop marketable skills that will allow them to improve the quality of their schoolwork and survive in a competitive job market.

**Child Development***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

This course provides an overview of the theory and principles of human growth and development from conception through adolescence. Content includes an in-depth study of the interrelatedness of physical, cognitive, social, and emotional aspects of development. Students will study development in the context of family, gender, culture, language, ability, socioeconomics, diversity, and society. Special emphasis will be on the theories of Piaget, Vygotsky, Erikson, and Gardner. Students will also investigate careers related to the care and education of children.

**Classical Philosophy***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: Two (2) years of  
English and World History*

This course examines the foundations of logic, ethics, and epistemology in the classical tradition. Students will be introduced to the primary sources from the classical world, particularly Greece, which constitute the main emphasis of reading and discussion along with significant works by modern authors.

**College and Career Readiness***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

This course helps seniors investigate their academic and career interests, plus explore post-secondary options that could be a best fit for them. Students applying to college will be able to get expert guidance through the entire college search, application, and enrollment process. Students will fill out their applications, work on college essays, create a resume, and submit their application items to meet admissions deadlines. We will also discuss strategies that will help make the post-secondary transition a smooth one.

**Computer Science I***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: Algebra I*

In this course, students use mathematical and logical reasoning to solve problems in computer science. Students explore various aspects of digital citizenship and learn to read and write short programs using the Java programming language.

**Computer Science II***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: Computer Science I*

This course equips students to read and write complex programs using Java. Students apply algebraic and logical reasoning to the development of robust programming solutions. Students in this course create interactive programs and animate graphic displays.

**Creative Writing***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: English I*

This course encourages student writers to develop versatility by exposing them to the forms, standards, and techniques used by professional authors. Students learn how to scaffold the writing process and to critically evaluate their own work while setting manageable goals for themselves as writers.

**Culinary Arts: Practice and Execution***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

This course will introduce students to basic kitchen skills, the science of food preparation, and various culinary practices. Students will also gain practical, hands-on experience as they follow and then modify recipes before innovating original dishes. The class will culminate in an exploration of world cuisines. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Digital and Interactive Media**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Touch System Data Entry*

This course is a creative, business-oriented approach to graphical art, computer animation, video techniques, and web design. Students will learn to use advanced multimedia techniques to create, organize, manage, and present digital information in a variety of media. Upon completing the course, students will be proficient in using industry standard software and hardware, efficiently managing and presenting information, comfortably presenting projects to small groups as well as planning, designing, and creating multimedia projects successfully in both team and individual environments.

**Entrepreneurship**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course allows students to gain the knowledge and skills needed to become entrepreneurs. Students learn the principles necessary to begin and operate a business. The primary focus of the course is to help students understand the process of analyzing a business opportunity, preparing a business plan, determining the feasibility of ideas, and developing a plan to organize and promote a business, its products, and its services. In addition, students understand capital requirements, return on investment, and potential profit.

**Fashion Lab**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

Students enrolled in Fashion Lab will create fabric-made items with their own creative vision at the helm. Each student is expected to use their imagination and creativity when they either acquire a new skill or hone an existing one. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Advanced Fashion Lab**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Fashion Lab*

Students will deepen their knowledge of sewing and design as well as their understanding of what it takes to complete projects with less structure. Participation in the annual Fashion Show is required for this course. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Family and Consumer Science**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course presents a comprehensive body of skills, research, and knowledge that helps people make informed decisions about their well-being, relationships, and resources to achieve optimal quality of life.

**Film I – Introduction to American Cinema**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is a survey of the history of American film. It focuses on films critical to the cultural zeitgeist and influenced the development of film, American culture overall, or both. Additionally, students will learn the basics of media criticism, film analysis, and the characteristics of genre.

**Film II – Introduction to International Cinema**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Film I*

Film II is a survey of the history, genres, and major contributions of international film. This course focuses on films critical to the cultural zeitgeist and influenced the development of film, global culture overall, or both. Additionally, students will learn the basics of media criticism, film analysis, and the characteristics of genre.

**Film III – Introduction to Film Production**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Film I or Film II*

Film III learners will explore the basic techniques, conventions, devices, and terminology of filmmaking. More specifically, students will use screenwriting software, editing software, cameras, lighting (cinematography), and sound recording. As an upper-level course, students will act as a production team and rotate roles to create various student productions over the course of the year.

Moreover, by studying and engaging in the craft, organization, structure, and development required to produce cinema, students will also attain important reading and analytical skills.

**Forensic Psychology**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: Introduction to Psychology*

This course will explore the application of psychology to legal issues. Students will develop a foundational understanding of the intersection of psychology and the law. Students will learn about related topics such as the importance of forensic psychologists, forensic psychological assessments, lie detection, evaluation of DNA and physical evidence, jury selection, insanity defenses, criminal profiling, eyewitness and expert testimony, offender treatment, death penalty, and correctional psychology. Students examine case studies, trials, established and emerging laws, and relevant research into the psychological aspects of criminal activity and the people who commit crimes, as well as the basic understanding of the major mental disorders and how they may cause, aggravate, or mitigate criminal conduct.

**Game Development**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This lab-based course introduces students to the fundamentals of Unreal 5 Engine for beginners. Students will explore and build digital worlds using the new Lumen Lighting System and Nanite Geometry Engine in UE5 to produce spectacular real-time content. Starting as a game developer, programmer, architect, artist or designer and generating digital content has never been easier.

**Health Education**

*Credit: 0.5*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is a study of the physical, mental, and emotional functions of the body, emphasizing teenage decisions concerning the use of tobacco, alcohol, and drugs. Units on fitness, safety, nutrition, and first aid are included. A three-week unit on human growth and development will be included in this course. It will include units on the role of family, dating, human reproduction, childbirth, sexually transmitted diseases, and making decisions about these facets.

**History of Costume**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course reviews historical roles of dress in western civilization while exploring fashion as a form of self-expression. Students will discuss the cultural, social, and physical evolution of garments by comparing contemporary styles to past ones.

**Hospitality, Travel, and Tourism**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces students to an industry that encompasses lodging, travel, tourism, recreation, amusements, attractions, and food and beverage operations. Students will focus on the aspects of tourism in both Texas and the United States.

**Interior Design**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this course, students learn interior design principles, home design principles, interior design business practices, floor plan creation, room design and redesign, color theory, custom furniture ordering, budgeting, mood boards, and design boards.

**Introduction to Psychology**

*Credit: 0.5*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course introduces students to the science of psychology with an emphasis on human behavior. Course content includes the study of learning and thinking, intelligence, human development, personality theories, defense mechanisms, abnormal behavior and treatment, and careers in psychology.

**Introduction to Sociology**

*Credit: 0.5*

*Prerequisite: None*

Sociology is the study of society. This course focuses on a systematic understanding of social interaction, social organization, social institutions, and social change. Students will take a closer look at society and human interactions. Students will identify the connections between their firsthand experiences and their social environment. Themes covered include culture, social class, race and ethnicity, gender and age, marriage and family, education, and religion.

**Introduction to Textiles and Apparel Production**

*Credits: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

This course is an introduction to the composition, characteristics, and products of the textile industry. Students will discover that every piece of clothing begins with textile production, whether from organic or synthetic materials. Students will study fiber procedures, manufacturers, dyers, finishers, and retailers to gain a basic understanding of apparel production from creation to consumption.

**Journalism**

*Credit: 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this dynamic and comprehensive course, students will embark on an exciting journey through the evolving world of journalism and media. Each quarter will delve into a specific medium, exploring its history, techniques, and impact on storytelling. Through a blend of theory, practical exercises, and hands-on projects, students develop essential journalism skills while navigating the diverse landscape of media platforms.

**Multi-Media Design**

*Credit 1.0*

*Prerequisite: None*

In this project-based class, students learn through the Procreate software, becoming familiar with the platform and creating and understanding works beneficial to business success. Students are required to have an iPad or tablet with the Procreate studio software installed.

**Photography***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

Photography is the science, art, application, and practice of creating durable images by recording light or other electromagnetic radiation, either electronically by means of an image sensor, or chemically by means of a light-sensitive material such as photographic film. Students are required to download Adobe Photoshop on their device for this course.

**Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

In Principles of Business, Marketing, and Finance, students gain knowledge and skills in economies and private enterprise systems, the impact of global business, the marketing of goods and services, advertising, and product pricing. Students analyze the sales process and financial management principles. This course allows students to reinforce, apply, and transfer academic knowledge and skills to a variety of interesting and relevant activities, problems, and settings in business, marketing, and finance.

**Robotics – High School***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: Algebra I*

This course is an introduction to working with computer-controlled devices and software development. Through implementation of the design process, students will transfer advanced academic skills to component designs in a project-based environment. Students will build prototypes or use simulation software to assess their designs. Integrating sensors for closed feedback loops and automated decision making is emphasized. Additionally, students explore career opportunities, employer expectations, and educational needs in the robotic and automation industry. Additional fees apply per semester.

**Sociology of the Family***Credit: 0.5**Prerequisite: None*

This course will introduce students to major sociological theories to understand family as a social institution; describe the changing definitions of family; examine demographic changes in marriage and family patterns; and contrast micro- and macro- level interactions among individuals, families, and society. Topics include family research, single parenting, blended families, cultural differences in families, families over the life course, and governmental policies regarding families.



**Sports Sociology***Credit: 0.5**Prerequisite: None*

This course examines the importance sports and leisure activities play in society. From local examples such as Texas motorsports and high school basketball, to international examples such as the Olympics and World Cup, we will examine sports from the perspective of athletes and fans, look at sports as an increasingly important business, and discuss how sports have been a significant agent for social change.

**Student News***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

Student News at Einstein is designed as an introductory course into media production and some entry-level marketing techniques. It is designed to further a student's interests in video production, multimedia design, and/or marketing. Students create promotional and newsworthy videos that display themselves and Einstein throughout the school year. As a result, attendance at several in-school and out-of-school events is mandatory throughout the year. Students will be part of the entire process from creation through post-production. They will also be tasked with documenting their time and creating a portfolio to use for their future college or career.

**Yearbook***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

This course is designed to help students learn practical editorial writing and photojournalism skills. Students will design and create the school's yearbook with the direction of their teacher and a student editor. Students in yearbook will work on becoming self-starters, learning document management, journalistic writing, and how to take good photographs, all with the goal of creating a unique and creative yearbook that reflects Einstein's students.

**Yoga***Credit: 1.0**Prerequisite: None*

In this course of mindful yoga practice, students experience the transformative journey of self-awareness and inner harmony. This yoga class is designed to cultivate a deeper connection between the mind, body, and spirit, offering an oasis of balance and tranquility amidst the unpredictable stressors and anxieties of everyday life. Additional fees apply per semester.