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AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Language & Literature

Course Overview

The IB English Language and Literature course offers students a comprehensive exploration of language's impact on meaning and communication. Throughout the course, students will study a variety of literary and non-literary texts, analyzing how stylistic and structural devices shape the delivery of the message. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking and writing skills through close reading of these texts. In addition to textual analysis, students will be encouraged to work independently on research projects, honing their research and presentation skills. Dedicated attention will also be given to preparing for the Paper 1 and Paper 2 external examinations.

In Year 1 of the program, students engage in close reading to familiarize themselves with the conventions and affordances of different text types and genres. They will gain an appreciation for the formal and stylistic qualities of the texts, while also gaining insights into the perspectives of individuals from diverse cultures. This foundational year prepares students for the internal and external assessments required by the program.

Continuing into Year 2, students delve deeper into a wide range of literary and non-literary works from various periods, styles, and genres. Building upon the tools acquired in Year 1, students focus on textual analysis, examining how the structure and style of a particular work contribute to the construction of meaning. Throughout the program, students will develop a keen appreciation for the power of language and the ways in which it shapes our understanding of the world. By engaging with diverse texts and sharpening their critical thinking and writing abilities, students will be well-prepared for the academic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead.

Prerequisites:

Grade 10 English

Major Units of Study

- Intertextuality
- The Graphic Novel
- The Novel
- The Play
- The Individual Oral
- Essays and Essayists
- The Play
- Non-literary Body of Work
- Paper 1 and Paper 2 Writer's Workshop

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Lang & Lit SL/HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB French/Arabic Ab Initio

Course Overview

This two-year course is designed for students with little or no language experience. Students learn to interact in various everyday situations through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course also provides insight into the culture of the French-speaking population. Topics covered include identity (lifestyle, health and well-being, beliefs and values, subcultures, language and identity, experience (leisure activities, vacations and travel, life stories, rites of passage, customs, and traditions, migration), human Ingenuity (entertainment, artistic expression), communication and media, technology, scientific innovation, social organization (social relations, community, community involvement, education, work, law, and order), sharing the planet (environment, human rights, peace, and conflict), equality, globalization, ethics, urban and rural setting).

Prerequisites:

Major Units of Study

- Identities
- Experiences
- Human Ingenuity
- Social Organization
- Sharing the Planet

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Language AB initio](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB French/Arabic B SL & HL

Course Overview

The Arabic/French B course is a 2-year course designed for students with previous knowledge of the language. The objective is the development of language skills through the study of written and spoken material and the awareness of the culture and literature of French/Arabic-speaking countries. Topics covered include identities (lifestyles, health and well-being, beliefs and values, subcultures, language and identity, experiences (leisure activities, holidays and travels, life stories, rites of passage, customs and tradition, migration), human ingenuity (entertainment, artistic expressions, communication and media, technology, scientific innovation, social organization (social relationships, community, social engagement, education, the working world, law and order), sharing the planet (the environment, human rights, peace and conflict, equality, globalization, ethics, urban and rural environment).

Both Arabic/French B SL and HL students learn to communicate in the target language in familiar and unfamiliar contexts. The distinction between B SL and HL can be seen in the level of competency the student is expected to develop in receptive, productive and interactive skills.

At HL the study of two literary works originally written in the target language is required and students are expected to extend the range and complexity of the language they use and understand in order to communicate.

Prerequisites:

6 years of study of French/Arabic

Major Units of Study

- Identities
- Experiences
- Human Ingenuity
- Social Organization
- Sharing the Planet

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Language B](#).

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Global Politics

Course Overview

The IBDP Global Politics course aims to deepen students' understanding of key political concepts and contemporary political issues so they may develop a firm grip on the local, national, international, and global dimensions of political activity. From the exploration of the pillars of sovereignty and state power, to reflection on the interdependent nature of interactions between states, international organizations, and non-state actors, students will develop the skills necessary to critically engage with the world around them and to come to reliable conclusions about a variety of perspectives and approaches to global politics. The course is built around four units: 1) Sovereignty, Power, and International Relations 2) Human Rights 3) Development and 4) Peace and Conflict. Each unit promotes understanding of abstract concepts by rooting them in real world case studies, allowing comparison to stimulate a transnational perspective by students. Each unit encourages international mindedness and an awareness of (and appreciation for) multiple perspectives. Finally, this course requires all students to undertake an engagement activity through which they experientially investigate a political issue of their choice. Students are asked to complement their empirical learning with theories acquired from research to synthesize their own, unique conclusion about the issue. This trains students to look at politics not as something that can be strictly learned from books, but as something that needs to be practiced on the ground in order to actively improve the lives of people.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Major Units of Study

- Sovereignty, Power, and International Relations
- Human Rights
- Development
- Peace and Conflict

For more information, please check the IB Subject Brief for Global Politics [SL](#) and [HL](#).

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Psychology

Course Overview

This course will provide a broadly chronological survey of United States history, beginning with the indigenous inhabitants through the present day. Students will examine settlement patterns, continental expansion, immigration, and economic growth to better understand why the country evolved as it did politically and governmentally. We will also study the emergence of the United States as a global economic and military power and analyze its impact on the world community. In addition to a core US history text, we will examine primary documents and read articles by various notable historians whose interpretations of topics in US history have evolved and changed over time. The class will be taught in the seminar style, and students must be prepared for each class and are expected to participate actively in discussions and conversations. Most assessments will be written: in-class essays, take-home essays, document analyses, and reading quizzes. Class participation will also be an important component of a student's grade.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Major Units of Study

- Research in Psychology
- Biological Approach to Understanding Behavior
- Cognitive Approach to Understanding Behavior
- Sociocultural Approach to Understanding Behavior
- Abnormal Psychology
- Human Relationships (HL only)

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Psychology SL/HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Economics

Course Overview

Economics allows students to develop an understanding of the complexities and interdependence of economic activities in a rapidly changing world. At the heart of economic theory is the problem of scarcity. Owing to scarcity, choices have to be made. The economics course, at both SL and HL, uses economic theories, models, and key concepts (scarcity, choice, efficiency, equity, economic well-being, sustainability, change, and interdependence and intervention) to examine how these choices are made: at the level of producers and consumers in individual markets (microeconomics); at the level of the government and the national economy (macroeconomics); and at an international level, where countries are becoming increasingly interdependent (the global economy). It also allows students to explore these models, theories, and key concepts, and apply them, using empirical data, through the examination of six real-world issues.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Major Units of Study

- Introduction to Economics
- Microeconomics
- Macroeconomics
- The Global Economy
- International Economics

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Economics SL](#) and [HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Biology

Course Overview

Biologists investigate the living world at all levels using many different approaches and techniques. At one end of the scale are the cell, its molecular construction, and complex metabolic reactions. At the other end of the scale, biologists investigate the interactions that make the whole ecosystem function. That is why the IB Diploma Programme biology course is structured around four themes: Unity and diversity, Form and Function, Interaction and interdependence, and Continuity and change which are organized into four levels: Molecules, cells, organisms, and ecosystems. The aim of the syllabus is to integrate concepts, topic content, and the nature of science through inquiry and concept-based teaching and learning. Throughout the course, students become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. Furthermore, practical work is an integral part of the course. Students enjoy multiple opportunities for scientific study and creative inquiry within a global context.

Prerequisites:

Introduction to Biology

Major Units of Study

- Molecules
- Cells
- Organisms
- Ecosystems

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Biology SL & HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Chemistry

Course Overview

Chemistry is primarily concerned with identifying patterns that help to explain matter at the microscopic level. This then allows matter's behaviour to be predicted and controlled at a macroscopic level. The subject therefore emphasizes the development of representative models and explanatory theories, both of which rely heavily on creative but rational thinking. IB chemistry enables students to constructively engage with topical scientific issues. Students examine scientific knowledge claims in a real-world context, fostering interest and curiosity. By exploring the subject, they develop understandings, skills and techniques which can be applied across their studies and beyond. Integral to the student experience of the DP chemistry course is the learning that takes place through scientific inquiry both in the classroom and the laboratory.

Prerequisites:

Introduction to Chemistry

Major Units of Study

- Structure 1. Models of the particulate nature of matter
- Structure 2. Models of bonding and structure
- Structure 3. Classification of matter
- Reactivity 1. What drives chemical reactions?
- Reactivity 2. How much, how fast and how far?
- Reactivity 3. What are the mechanisms of chemical change?

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Chemistry SL & HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Physics

Course Overview

IB Physics is a rigorous course that allows students to develop a solid foundation in experimental skills, problem solving skills and knowledge in Physics. The aim of the syllabus is to integrate concepts, topic content, and the nature of science through inquiry and concept-based teaching and learning. Throughout the course, students become aware of how scientists work and communicate with each other. The course is structured around five themes: A. Space, time and motion, B. The particulate nature of matter, C. Wave behavior, D. Fields, and E. Nuclear and quantum physics. The listed topics include core material studied by both SL and HL students as well as additional higher-level material for HL students.

The study of physics requires a strong foundation in mathematics. Therefore, it is required that students joining IB Physics have demonstrated proficiency in their math studies. Students seeking to pursue Physics HL must be enrolled in either Math IB AA SL or HL.

Prerequisites:

Introduction to Physics

Major Units of Study

- Space, Time & Motion
- The Particulate Nature of Matter
- Wave Behavior
- Fields of Energy (Gravitation, Electric, Magnetic)
- Nuclear and Quantum Physics

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Physics SL & HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Sports, Exercise, and Health Science

Course Overview

Sports, exercise, and health science course (SEHS) is primarily concerned with the scientific study of human physiology, biomechanics and psychology. Scientists working in these fields attempt to make sense of human physical and mental health and performance through a variety of approaches and techniques, controlled experimentation, and collaboration with other researchers. DP SEHS enables students to engage constructively with topical scientific issues. Students examine scientific knowledge claims in a real-world context, fostering interest and curiosity. By exploring the subject, they develop understandings, skills and techniques that can be applied across their studies and beyond. The course is organized under three main themes: exercise physiology and nutrition of the human body; biomechanics; sports psychology and motor learning. These themes are distinct, but also share many overlapping features; studying the similarities and connections between them is a central component of the course. Integral to the student experience of the DP SEHS course is the learning that takes place through scientific inquiry, both in the classroom and in field work or the laboratory

Prerequisites:

Major Units of Study

- Exercise physiology and nutrition of the human body
- Biomechanics
- Sports psychology and motor learning

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Sports Science SL & HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Math Applications and Interpretation SL

Course Overview

This course emphasizes the applied nature of mathematics, and also the interpretation of results in problem contexts. The topics selected for this course are treated with minimal abstraction and extensive application. Students will enjoy the mathematics they use to describe our world and to solve practical problems. They will also develop interest in deploying the power of technology, alongside exploring mathematical models of authentic real life situations, such as growth and decay of human, animal, and plant populations, and in understanding trends, all in order to make good judgments and accurate predictions about future behaviors. The audience of this course are students who will pursue college majors where mathematics serves them as a modeling tool, such as social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, labs, arts, statistics, business, psychology, design, and others.

Prerequisites:

Algebra II

Major Units of Study

- Sequences and Series
- Number Representations, Algebraic Methods, Financial Mathematics
- Function Concepts
- Linear, Quadratic, Exponential, Direct/Inverse Variation, Cubic, & Trigonometric Models
- Principles of Data Collection, Descriptive Statistics
- Inferential Statistics (correlation, regression, chi-squared tests)
- Probability Distributions (discrete, normal, binomial)
- Correlation and Regression
- Hypothesis Testing
- Probability
- Differential Calculus
- Integral Calculus

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Math Application and Interpretation](#). *Note that ACS only offers the SL level of this course.*

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Math Analysis and Approaches SL

Course Overview

This course emphasizes the applied nature of mathematics, and also the interpretation of results in problem contexts. The topics selected for this course are treated with minimal abstraction and extensive application. Students will enjoy the mathematics they use to describe our world and to solve practical problems. They will also develop interest in deploying the power of technology, alongside exploring mathematical models of authentic real life situations, such as growth and decay of human, animal, and plant populations, and in understanding trends, all in order to make good judgments and accurate predictions about future behaviors. The audience of this course are students who will pursue college majors where mathematics serves them as a modeling tool, such as social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, labs, arts, statistics, business, psychology, design, and others.

Prerequisites:

Algebra II

Major Units of Study

- Sequences and Series
- Number and Algebra (Logarithmic and Exponential Functions, Binomial theorem, Proofs)
- Functions and Equations
- Geometry and Trigonometry
- Calculus (Differentiation)
- Calculus (Integration)
- Statistics and Probability

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Math Analysis and Approaches](#).

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Math Analysis and Approaches HL

Course Overview

The IB Math Analysis and Approaches HL course emphasizes calculus at both abstract and applied levels, as well as algebraic, graphical, and numerical approaches. This course includes topics that are both traditionally part of a pre-university mathematics course, as well as topics that are amenable to investigation, conjecture and proof. At the HL, proof by induction will be included. Students will enjoy developing their mathematical knowledge to become fluent in mathematical communication, the construction of mathematical arguments, and in the development of strong skills in mathematical thinking. They will be fascinated by the exploration of real and abstract applications of these ideas, with and without the use of technology. The Math AAHL course is aimed at students who have strong algebraic skills, enjoy the recognition of patterns, and understand the mathematical generalization of these patterns. They are the students who enjoy spending time with problems and get pleasure and satisfaction from solving challenging problems. The course targets students who plan to pursue college majors with substantial mathematics content such as mathematics itself, engineering, physical sciences, astronomy, architecture, technology, or economics for example.

Prerequisites:

Algebra II

Major Units of Study

- Number and Algebra (Sequences and Series, Logarithmic and Exponential Functions, Binomial theorem, Counting principles, Proofs)
- Functions and Equations
- Geometry and Trigonometry
- Complex Numbers
- Differential Calculus
- Integral Calculus 1
- Integral Calculus 2
- Statistics
- Probability and Probability Distributions
- Vectors, Lines, and Planes

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Math Analysis and Approaches](#).

Course Overview

This course is a very challenging and rewarding experience for those who can match the course demands with the effort and time required for success. The course requires a strong interest in the visual arts, a good base of artistic skills, an interest in research and art history, and good time management skills.

Visual Arts is an advanced course in exploring creative processes and developing an invested and personal contemporary art/design practice. Students engage in critical investigation and artistic production through an independent framework of personal mentorship and independent learning. Throughout the course, students develop strong relational concepts, explore and experiment with a variety of media and disciplines, take creative risks, and document their art process through critique, reflection and evaluation.

This is a rigorous and rewarding course that requires a full commitment of effort, time to the workload, and explicit planning which will develop students' aesthetic and visual understanding of the world and their own distinctive style and creative expression. Both SL and HL are offered.

Prerequisites:

Major Units of Study

- Fertile Ground: starting techniques, culture & place, building an art journal
- Transformation: material exploration, building conceptual thinking
- Lingua Franca: visual analysis, practice comparative study, appropriation
- Above & Beyond: installation, practice curation, digital work, interactive work

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Visual Arts SL](#), and [HL](#)

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL BEIRUT

Grade 11 & 12 IB Theatre

Course Overview

The course is designed to encourage students to examine theatre in its diversity of forms around the world. At the core of the course lies a concern with clarity of understanding, critical thinking, reflective analysis, effective involvement and imaginative synthesis—all of which can be achieved through the action of theatre (creating, directing, designing, and performance).

Theatre is about transformation. It is the application, through play, of existing theatrical styles and imagination to frame, reflect, expose, critique and speculate on what it is that makes us human; why we make the choices we make and tell the stories we tell.

By studying theatre, and engaging with it practically, students will discover how elusive, fascinating and varied theatre can be through the exploration of its theory, history, and culture, and will find expression through work shopping, devised work or scripted performance.

The course emphasizes the importance of working individually and as a member of an ensemble through development of the organizational and technical skills needed to express one's self creatively in theatre and support one another. A further challenge for students following this course is to become aware of their own perspectives and biases and to learn to respect those of others.

Students taking IB Theatre must commit to a yearly ISTA trip to London

Prerequisites:

Major Units of Study

- Research Presentation (External Assessment)
- Collaborative Devised Theatre (External Assessment)
- Production Proposal (Internal Assessment)
- Solo Theatre Piece (External Assessment)

For more information, please check the [IB Subject Brief for Theatre SL](#), and [HL](#)