



## **Winter Term 2025**

January 7-24

**ENGAGEMENT, EMPATHY, INTEGRITY, PASSION, CONFIDENCE, CREATIVITY**

The following courses are offered during Winter Term 2025.  
Courses are categorized in one of three immersive learning skill areas:  
Inquiry, Adventure, and Service.

We are only offering full day courses for Winter Term 2025 .  
Students will be enrolled in one class for the duration of Winter Term.

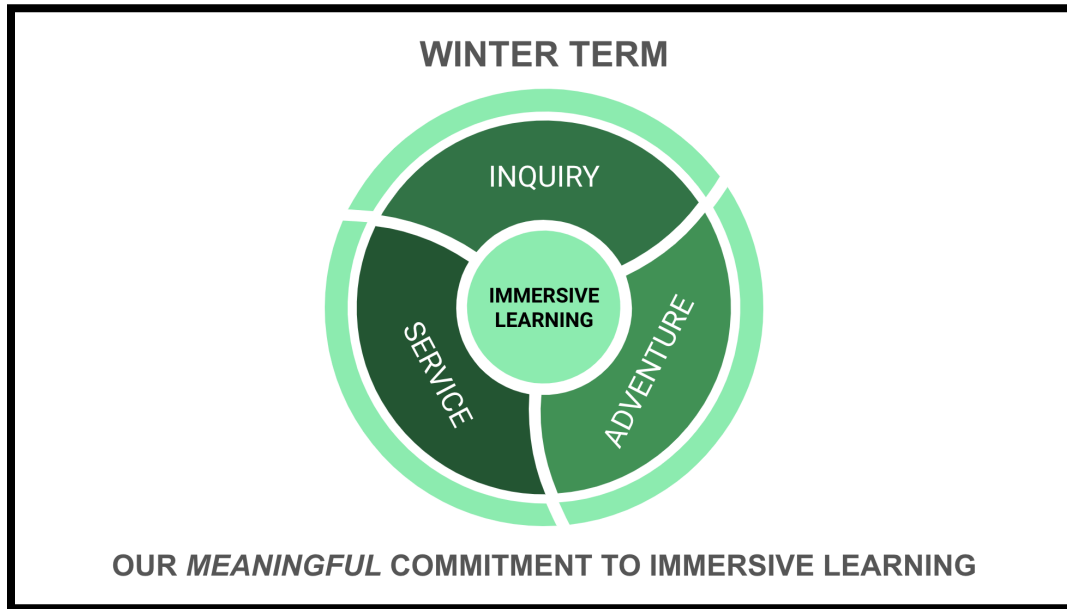
Courses are listed alphabetically by title. Instructors, course type, the estimated student cost, immersive learning skill area, and travel dates (if applicable) are also listed.

### *A NOTE ABOUT EXPECTED STUDENT COST:*

*The cost to most students will be approximately \$100 or less for books, materials or minor expenses (indicated by "\$").*

*In a few cases, indicated by "+\$", the relatively high cost of offering the course (usually related to travel expenses) requires the school to ask for a larger student contribution beyond books and materials.*

***Student contributions are prorated according to financial aid.***



*Definition of Immersive Learning Skills as Winter Term Course Categories:*

**Definition of Inquiry:** In inquiry classes, students explore topics by asking questions, researching, making connections, and reflecting. The school wide competency of **critical thinking, problem solving, and analysis** is paramount in inquiry classes. The symposium experience will include a demonstration of discovery, of the questions posed, the research process, and outcomes and learning.

**Definition of Adventure:** In adventure classes, students move beyond their comfort zones and must be willing to learn through action. The school wide competency of **creativity and innovation** is at the forefront of curriculum development and student expectations in adventure classes. The symposium experience will include a demonstration and reflection of the adventure, both individually and collectively for students.

**Definition of Service:** In service classes, students learn about and understand their role in the community beyond Brooks. Students demonstrate empathy through action and emotional connections. The school wide competency of **social justice responsibility** is at the forefront of curriculum development and student expectations in service classes. The symposium experience will include a demonstration and reflection of the service learning experience, both individually and collectively, for students.

## ***COURSE SELECTION PROCESS***

**September 9:** Course Catalog Published

### **PHASE 1: COURSES WITH 3+ OVERNIGHT TRAVEL DAYS**

1. **September 17:** Phase 1 Course Selection Open (3+ travel days)  
*Fair Winds, El Camino, Haunted Hotel, France, Scuba, Portugal, Italian Art and Culture, Art as Activism, Shredding 101, Mindfulness (noted with a "\*" next to the title)*
2. **September 24:** Phase 1 Course Selection Due (Overnight Travel of 3+ days)
3. **October 2:** Rosters set for Phase 1 Travel Courses. No waitlist.

### **PHASE 2: ALL OTHER COURSES**

1. **October 8:** Phase 2 Course Selection Open
2. **October 15:** Course Selection Due (All other courses)
3. **October 30:** Course enrollments shared with students and teachers

### **COURSE CHANGE REQUESTS (PHASE 2 COURSES ONLY)**

1. **November 5:** Course Change Request Window Open
2. **November 12:** Course Change Request Window closed
3. **November 20:** All course change requests communicated with students

Students are enrolled based on a number of factors, including individual interest, form year, and winter afternoon activity. All things being equal and in the interest of fairness, the academic office will use a randomizer to assist in the course placement of students. Except in special circumstances approved by Ms. McDonough, students may not take the same Winter Term course twice.

## ***FINANCIAL AID***

Student financial contributions are prorated according to financial aid. Please direct any questions about expected student costs and financial aid to Ms. McDonough.

## ***WINTER TERM SCHEDULE AND TRAVEL***

Winter Term begins on Tuesday, January 7, 2025 and concludes on Friday, January 24, 2025 with the symposium. Overnight travel happens in the final week of Winter Term. There are NO athletic competitions from January 20-24. All members of the Brooks community, including families, are invited to attend the symposium on Friday, January 24, 2025. Attendance at the symposium is required for all students.

## ***QUESTIONS?***

Please contact [Joanna McDonough](#), Dean of Teaching and Learning, with any Winter Term questions.

## 1. Art as Activism \*

***NOT OFFERED WINTER TERM 2025***

*Instructors: M. Hill & C. Joya Huntington*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$1,200*

***New Orleans Travel Dates: TBC in the week of January 19***

In this dynamic course, students will explore the powerful intersection of art and activism. Dive into how art has been used as a tool for social change, from the Civil Rights Movement to modern-day protests. Through hands-on projects, students will create their own activist art, collaborating with local Boston art activists to address issues that matter to them. The journey doesn't stop there! This year we are traveling to New Orleans, Louisiana to experience the vibrant arts of a city where art and activism have long intertwined to shape the cultural fabric of the South. This course is open to all: it's great for new artists, experienced artists, historians, scientists, athletes, or anyone who is curious about how the arts can impact our lives.

## 2. Baseball

*Instructors: M. Bruschi & K. Moroco*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$300*

***Cooperstown/Baseball HOF Travel Dates: Monday, January 20-Tuesday, January 21***

The love of baseball takes on many forms. Come and explore your favorite baseball statistics (while learning and even inventing some new ones!), debate the possibility of an expansion team, cast your Hall of Fame ballot, try your hand at play-by-play analysis and color commentary, score a game the old-fashioned way, and create your own "30-for-30"-style documentary short film. Plus you get to travel to Fenway Park in Boston and the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York! In class, we will examine and unpack not only the play that happens on the field, but also how the media, broadcasters, baseball operations, players, and fans handle pregame, in-game, and postgame analysis. We will also ask students to share with the group their favorite books, FanGraphs articles, classic games, and YouTube channels about baseball; students will have a good degree of agency in selecting the specific material we discuss in class. On select afternoons and evenings, we may challenge other winter term classes to wiffleball games in the gym (or play intrasquad games ourselves).

### 3. Brooks History and Documentary Film

*Instructors: L. Latham & K. Moltz*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Become an expert on Brooks history and make a video that will live forever in the Frank D. Ashburn Archives! Using Ken Burns and his documentaries about US history and culture as models, students produce their own short films about Brooks history. The school archives provide a rich source of written, audio, and visual materials.

Students learn to tell compelling stories and use iMovie to create their final projects, which will become a permanent part of the archival collection. Doing the work of historians is a fun, time-consuming, rewarding experience. Students become knowledgeable about the school's history; they study how documentaries are created, written, edited, and produced. Guest speakers, classic films, and field trips to Groton, Walpole NH, and Boston provide additional learning opportunities for the class.

### 4. Car Wars

*Instructors: P. Gallo, P. Neissa & A. Konovalchik*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

A very hands on approach to automotive restoration and repair! Term participants will be instructed and guided on the many challenging repairs and fabrication that is involved with such a project. Participants will be encouraged to evaluate, research, and repair the many issues involved in automobile systems. The term will focus, but is not limited to, brake, fuel, electrical, and engine cooling systems. One class trip to an auto museum or show is tentatively scheduled.

*NOTE. This is an interactive class. Participants will likely come into contact with automotive fluids (engine oil, coolant, brake fluid).*

## 5. Dune: LIVE!

*Instructors: C. Davis & M. Musto*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Frank Herbert published the novel Dune in 1965 to much critical and commercial success. The novel, about political warring for power on the planet Arrakis, won numerous awards and is considered by many to be one of if not the greatest science fiction novel of all time. Despite its popularity, the story was thought to be unfilmable for the longest time due to the complexity of the story and the lack of technology needed to bring it to life. Dune was first adapted into a film in 1984 by director David Lynch, and again in 2000 as a Sci-Fi Channel miniseries. However, the definitive adaptation of the novel came in the form of two films, Dune Part 1 released in 2021, and Dune Part 2 released in 2024 by director Denis Villeneuve.

In this winter term class, we will put on a live action parody performance of the movies Dune Pt. 1 and 2 in their entirety. During our time together, we will write the script, create the sets, build all of the props, design the costumes, create the score and sound effects, and then perform the movie, live on stage, in the auditorium in the Center for the Arts in front of the Brooks community during the final week of Winter Term. No background knowledge or experience with acting, set design or script writing is required, just a willingness to be creative and to participate genuinely. This course is a lot of work, but past students have expressed how rewarding it is to put on the performance and see the successes first hand. So, as a word of advice, do not sign up for this course if you are not willing to be fully invested in all facets of the performance.

## 6. Dungeons & Dragons & Board Games...Oh My!

*Instructors: L. Davis, S. Spicer & J. Slefinger*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Have you seen Stranger Things? Do you enjoy games of all kinds (board, card, role-playing, etc.)? In this Winter Term you will learn how to play a role playing game similar to Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) for half of the day and then learn more traditional board and card games in the other half. This Winter Term is for the creative, fantasy-world-loving writers and possibly actors (or just voice actors) that want to bring fantasy to life as well as the competitive and cooperative gamers who enjoy strategy and chance games alike. You will learn how to be a character in a role playing game and play different types of board/card games. You will then choose to create your own game or create your own one-shot to DM, depending where your interests lie. This whimsical option is not for the faint of heart! So join us and roll the dice...if you dare!

## 7. El Camino\*

*Instructors: N. Rios-Moya & S. Savarese*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$3,100*

***Spain Travel Dates: Saturday, January 18-Sunday, January 26***

*\*Please note the departure on 1/18 may conflict with athletic competitions*

¡Buen Camino! Let's go to Spain! Embark on a remarkable Spanish journey as we traverse the iconic "El Camino de Santiago." Over the course of this adventure, you'll walk a challenging 98-mile route, providing an immersive experience in Spanish culture and language. While "El Camino" has deep historical and spiritual roots with its Catholic background, today, it serves as a personal journey for individuals with various motivations. It's an opportunity to pause the hectic rhythms of modern life, reset, and establish profound connections with fellow pilgrims from diverse walks of life. This class is for students who are open-minded and eager to embrace and engage with a different culture. A willingness to adapt is key, as we'll be backpacking and staying in hostels. Prepare to leave behind everyday luxuries for about a week, but in exchange, you'll gain a rich understanding of Spanish culture and its vibrant diversity. You'll have the chance to indulge in various culinary delights. These dinners will nourish our bodies after a day of walking and provide a cultural immersion experience. It's a chance to savor the tastes of Spain and appreciate the role food plays in the country's vibrant culture. Get ready for a gastronomic adventure along with your physical and cultural journey! As part of this journey, you'll explore archaeological and many historical sites in the northwest of the Iberian Peninsula, dating back to the Iron Age. These sites will serve as windows into the historical complexities of Spain, sparking meaningful discussions about diversity, cultural interactions, and reconciliations between different civilizations that have left their mark on the region over centuries.

For winter term 2025, the course is open to female and non-binary students. There's no language requirement for enrollment. So, whether you're a seasoned traveler or new to international adventures, join us for a transformative experience along "El Camino de Santiago." It's an opportunity to reset, reflect, and embrace the beauty of Spain's rich cultural tapestry.

## 8. ESPN The Ocho

*Instructor: J. Price & E. Krahn*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

ESPN the Ocho is coming to Brooks. Enter the world of lesser-known, unconventional and humorous sports and other competitions with some athletic or physical skill component. We will learn about and compete in obscure competitions and sports from around the world. The course will culminate in course participants creating new sports and games.

## 9. Fair Winds and Following Seas\*

*Instructors: N. Freeman & S. Ludi*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$3,200*

***St. Croix Travel Dates: Sunday, January 19-Sunday, January 26***

Ahoy, mateys! Jump aboard this course to learn about maritime life and sail away in St. Croix aboard the tall ship, *Denis Sullivan*. The first part of the course will take place in the classroom, local boatyards, historical sites, and cultural institutions. We will focus on: 1) lessons in boat nomenclature 2) coastal navigation (reading nautical charts and understanding tides and currents) 3) nautical knots 4) boat building 5) meteorology (observing and forecasting weather conditions using traditional maritime skills and technology) 6) naval history and archaeology from the ancient Mediterranean shipwrecks to contemporary New England tall ships.

We will expand our practical knowledge and developing skills with field trips to New England museums and boat building yards to learn about the thriving boating industry in Brooks' back yard. Finally, we will consider issues of environmental conservation, learning what organizations are doing to protect our oceans, rivers, and other bodies of water. The classroom preparation and field trips will provide you with a better understanding of the high seas before you ultimately head to St. Croix to live, sail, and bond aboard the *Denis Sullivan*.

*NOTE. Ability to swim required for participation in this course. This course will be limited to 15 students based on the size of the Denis Sullivan boat.*

## 10. France: Through the Eyes of Immigrants\*

*Instructors: A. Medved, M. Porrazzo & T. Ofori*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry and Service*

*Expected Student Cost: \$+3,500*

***France Travel Dates: Sunday, January 19-Monday, January 27***

Discover France from a new perspective with our Winter Term French Cultural Immersion program, "France: Through the Eyes of Immigrants." This unique course invites high school students to explore the multifaceted layers of French society, focusing on the country's rich history of immigration and its ongoing challenges with race, diversity, and inclusion.

This course provides an in-depth exploration of how immigration from former colonies has shaped modern France, examining both the historical roots and current realities of racial dynamics. You'll gain a critical understanding of France's approach to secularism (Laïcité), multiculturalism, and diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging issues. A special highlight will be studying the significance of Martin Luther King Jr.'s historic visit to France and its influence on global civil rights movements.

If you're passionate about social justice, eager to explore the dynamics of race and immigration, or simply looking for a unique educational adventure, this course offers a comprehensive and immersive experience. Join us for an unforgettable Winter Term in France and return with a broadened worldview and a deeper understanding of what it means to belong in today's diverse societies.



## 11. From the Block to the Statehouse: Urban Governance, Hip Hop, and Art

*Instructors: L. McCain & S. Bery*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course works to introduce, deepen, and immerse students in the historical and present day Urban Experience. This class will explore topics like Civic Governance and Urban Planning, examining how cities run from a political and social standpoint. This course will do this by connecting with local government officials and grassroots advocates. We will also explore the creative and social aspects of Urban Life by focusing and exploring the history and longstanding impact of Hip-Hop on the Urban Experience. We will start with a history of Hip Hop and deepen our knowledge with an exploration of the elements of Hip Hop (Emceeing, DJing, Graffiti, and Breaking). This course will look into food as an art form and explore with local chefs. Lastly, we will explore the Public Transit systems used in Urban environments by focusing on the MBTA. We will learn by riding the train, learning about the political, social and creative impacts public transit has on the urban landscape. There is no better way to experience urban life than by engaging in the public transit systems available! All in all, this course is designed to give students an immersive, informative, and perspective expanding experience, in an effort to create students who can contribute positively and meaningfully to a multitude of environments, both urban and suburban.

## 12. Game Development

*Instructors: C. Gorton*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

In this winter term offering, you will use the Unity platform to create high-quality video games of your own design. This is the same software that pros use to create such games as Among Us, Monument Valley 2, and Pokémon Go.

We will work through tutorials to get the basics down, then you will design and create your own masterpiece. No computer science background is necessary, but some logic will require coding. Unity is a "studio" environment like GarageBand or iMovie and can be tied to code for more advanced requirements.

We will also make at least one field trip to learn about the computer science industry, past and present.

The course will culminate with your peers playing your game during the symposium.

### 13. Going Viral: Marketing Winter Term

*Instructors: J. O'Neill & S. Bird*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

In this hands-on course, you will work closely with the Communications Office to participate in our external marketing of Winter Term. You will analyze our current marketing efforts and offer feedback from a range of perspectives. Through the use of focus groups, data analysis and on-the-ground feedback, you will study the effectiveness of social media posts and then create and deploy your own initiatives. All creative ideas are welcome! Are you interested in creating videos, photography, vlogging, podcasts? Bring that interest to helping us document and promote all of the happenings of Winter Term by taking over Brooks School's TikTok, Instagram, Facebook, and X.

### 14. Great Outdoors

*Instructors: T. Benson, L. Lafond & I. Knowles*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$400*

Come explore and enjoy the great outdoors in winter. Our focus will be getting out into nature and enjoying the season through ice climbing, alpine skiing, mountain biking, and hiking. We will spend time in the White Mountains of New Hampshire learning about avalanche safety and awareness, along with winter survival skills. We will also spend time learning navigation skills using a map and compass. You do not need prior experience to join us, though you must be willing to face some challenging winter conditions. Be sure to bring a sense of adventure and a desire to enjoy New England in January.

*NOTE. Due to conditions imposed by outside trip leaders, students must be 16 years of age by January 7, 2025 in order to participate in this course.*

## 15. Guardians of the Sea\*

*Instructors: L. Hajdukiewicz , P. Moccia & A. Sacco*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure/Service*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$3,500*  
*\*Please note that students will also need to own or purchase some personal equipment in addition to the expected cost*

***Cayman Brac Travel Dates: Saturday, January 18-Saturday, January 25***

*\*Please note the departure on 1/18 may conflict with athletic competitions*

Guardians of the Sea is an immersive and transformative course that offers students an introduction to the captivating world of scuba diving while highlighting the critical environmental challenges faced by our oceans today. Through a comprehensive curriculum, students will gain an understanding of the science, history, equipment, and technology of scuba diving, while also fostering a deep appreciation for the wonders of the underwater realm. This course goes beyond the surface-level exploration of scuba and delves into the role of students as responsible ambassadors for the marine environment. Students will actively engage with pressing environmental issues such as coral bleaching, invasive species, overfishing, and ocean pollution. Guided by experts, they will learn effective strategies to mitigate these issues and become catalysts for positive change.

As a part of the course, students will have the opportunity to obtain certification from the globally recognized Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI). They will work towards achieving their Open Water and/or Advanced Open Water certifications during an exciting trip to Cayman Brac, where they will experience the breathtaking beauty of diving firsthand. Students will develop a profound understanding of their role as stewards of the marine environment and discover tangible actions they can take to make a positive impact. Join Guardians of the Sea and embark on a scuba journey that goes beyond personal exploration, enabling you to become an advocate for the preservation and restoration of our precious oceans. Together, we can make a difference.

## 16. Haunted Hotel\*

*Instructors: M. Nagel & S. Nagel*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$650*

***Berkshires Travel Dates: Sunday, January 19-Wednesday, January 22***

Do you believe in ghosts?

As New Englanders, we are proud of the region's contribution to the horror genre. Horror films allow us to confront the unknown, experience the unconscious, examine morality, consider the human condition, and have a fun fright! Our region's unique atmosphere and history have provided filmmakers with a wealth of resources for creating horror films. From dark forests to old cemeteries to haunted houses, New England has been the setting for some of the most iconic horror novels and films of all time. In this Winter Term course, we will explore our region's dark history and folklore through filmmaking.

Student filmmakers will be taught the fundamental skills needed to create short films, such as visual/audio capture, lighting design, narrative development, acting, script building, movie editing, and directing. Through group activities, film screenings, creative prompts, and demos, students will become empowered to control the medium and execute their vision. Collectively, we will build our own horror film plot, location scout for production, learn to establish atmosphere with lighting and sound, and develop our editing skills in order to create a captivating short horror film. We will take advantage of off-campus opportunities to film in a variety of exciting locales and embark upon a 4-day trip to a historic (and potentially haunted) Inn in the Berkshires of Massachusetts. Here we will film inside our very own *Haunted Hotel*.

## 17. Innovation and Sustainability

*Instructors: S. Antunes*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course delves into the intersection of sustainability and innovation. Students will explore sustainable farming practices, green technologies, and the potential of solar energy. Through hands-on projects, such as creating bioplastics and experimenting with biodegradable materials, students will gain practical experience in sustainable solutions. Additionally, field trips to a local museum and organizations will offer insights into real-world applications of sustainable practices. By the end of this course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of sustainability concepts and the innovative approaches driving a greener future.

## 18. Italian Art and Culture: Traditions and Innovations\*

*Instructors: B. Wheelden, E. DiAngelo & M. Becker*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry/Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$500  
(+ March Break trip expense)*

***New York City Travel Dates: Sunday, January 19-Monday, January 20***

The Italian Art and Culture course will allow students to experience first-hand authentic Italian culture “La Dolce Vita” while learning in depth about the history and social context associated with specific aspects of the Italian culture (arts, art history, architecture, cinema, cuisine and language) Days will be spent learning photography with Mrs. Wheelden and visiting artist Hannah Latham, expanding communication with Italian language acquisition, exposure and activities with Dr. DiAngelo in music from traditional opera to contemporary music, and collaborative opportunities to create and cook Italian cuisine with Ms. Becker. Day trips to Boston to visit the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum/MFA, and the North End as well as an overnight trip to NYC to go see a Puccini opera, eat an authentic family-style Italian meal, and see Italian art, will supplement our time in the Center for the Arts and Robert Lehman Art Center Gallery. (Trip to Italy March 7-17 for all students who enroll in this course. See Passports for tour details. [Itinerary](#) for March trip)

## 19. Leading a Legacy

*Instructors: I. Speliotis & A. Wilner*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Iniquity*

*Student Cost: \$*

Leading a Legacy aims to be a course that emphasizes leadership, a sense of purpose, and forging a path of higher performance for the future of Brooks School and its citizens. Through guest speakers, collaborative challenges, and active experience, students will engage in a workshop centered around the idea of leadership and civic engagement. The goal of this workshop is to equip students with real life skills that they can take wherever they go beyond Brooks. Students will work towards pitching a product, service, or initiative that Brooks needs to foster a deeper sense of participation, responsibility, and meaningful engagement within and beyond the community.

## 20. Mindfulness\*

*Instructors: C. Clater & G. Dobbins*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$400*

***Travel Dates: TBC in the week of January 19***

In this course we will engage in diverse approaches to mindfulness to lay the base for a lifelong practice that brings optimism, kindness, and gratitude into our lives and the lives of those around us. Activities on campus include snowshoeing, nature walking, mindful eating, journaling and learning from practitioners. Off campus day trips include nature walking, yoga classes, and meditation practice with a sangha. We will take a four day/three night trip to the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts experiencing togetherness while cooking, eating, and practicing mindfulness together in our lodging. The highlight of this trip is the day we spend at the Kripalu Center for Yoga and Health in Stockbridge.

## 21. Nothing Ventured, Nothing Gained\*

*Instructors: E. Mandzhukova-Wamboldt,  
C. MacKenzie & A. Weld*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$3,350*

***Portugal Travel Dates: Saturday, January 18-Sunday, January 26***

*\*Please note the departure on 1/18 may conflict with athletic competitions*

Tucked into the southwest corner of the Iberian Peninsula lies the small country of Portugal. Despite being commonly overshadowed by its cousin Spain, Portugal is one of the most innovative and impressively diverse countries in Europe. With its enviable location on the Atlantic coast, Portugal has attracted a wealth of cultures throughout the centuries that have influenced its growth, development, and identity. The result is a splendid fusion of cultures, stately places, medieval castles, tranquil monasteries, Roman ruins, and quaint fishing village towns commemorating Portugal's extensive maritime history. This Winter Term course is designed for those who wish to embark on a historical and cultural exploratory adventure of one of Europe's best. The course will begin with early settlements and then move through historic towns and remote medieval garrison villages with sensational castles that were key to developing Portugal's national identity. We end with Portugal's contribution to the Age of Exploration, which enabled it to become one of the wealthiest countries in the world. Traveling from Lisbon to Porto, we will visit World Heritage sites, enjoy river cruises, and pay close attention to Portugal's architectural traditions, which embrace Roman, Moorish, Romanesque, and Gothic styles. Along the way, we will illuminate the country's complex history and bring back a new cultural perspective to share with the rest of the Brooks community.

## 22. Mock Trial

*Instructors: J. Hayes & U. Alaniz*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Students are taught the basics of the American legal process in preparation for their participation in a mock trial in which a verdict is handed down by either a judge or jury. The course utilizes case materials provided by bar organizations and mock trial competitions across the country (including some actual cases), as well as readings from legal codes, handbooks, statutes and case law. Videos and courtroom movies and presentations are also included in the curriculum. At some point during the course, students attend trial proceedings in a local District or Superior Court, and are visited by local trial attorneys, as scheduling allows. The course not only teaches students about American jurisprudence, it also allows them to develop analytical, rhetorical and oratorical skills that serve them well in all walks of life.

## 23. Passion to Pass it On

*Instructors: L. Miller & J. Hurtado*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Service*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

What would you do if you won the lottery? Would you want to make other people's lives better? What are you passionate about? How can you help? Spend time off-campus discovering why people support different causes. See how organizations and individuals help others and make their lives better through work, wisdom, and wealth. Make an impact.

We will take a few day trips to Boston to experience the organizations first hand and hear from the alumni and parents who are passionate about their work in the nonprofit sector. Hunger, homelessness, education, poverty – are the four general areas we will look into. From root causes to sources of relief for people who are affected by these issues.

We will learn, in detail, about four different nonprofits, how they work, and the communities they help in the Boston area. Throughout the course, you will become a philanthropist and study a specific organization that you will then support with a grant. We can make a difference in people's lives. Learn what it feels like to make a difference.

## 24. Raku 5.0: Smokin' Hot

*Instructors: T. Smith & L. McLoughlin*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$100*

The class will develop ceramics skills on and off the pottery wheel and explore the ancient firing technique of Raku. Outdoor firing will take place at a local studio. We will visit a Boston gallery and under expert instruction we will expand to other firing techniques and also learn and practice the art of glassblowing.

What is Raku? Modern Raku is best described as a firing process in which ceramic pieces are taken up to approximately 1800 degrees in an outdoor propane-fueled kiln. While still red-hot, the pot is removed from the kiln and placed carefully into a container filled with combustible material - newspaper, leaves, shavings, hay, etc. The container is then closed up causing the atmosphere inside the container to be starved of oxygen, the clay to turn from white to black, and the glazes to change color in dramatic and unpredictable ways. For winter term we will explore [Raku Western style](#), [Saggar](#), [Horse Hair Raku](#) and other techniques as time allows.

## 25. Shredding 101\*

*Instructors: R. Bauer & J. Carroll*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$1,000*

***North Conway Travel Dates: Monday, January 20-Thursday, January 23***

In this course, students with no prior snowboarding experience will learn to embrace winter while overcoming obstacles to master a new skill. After two weeks of snowboarding lessons at Pat's Peak, students will test their new found skills while immersing themselves in the East Coast ski/snowboard culture. This course will challenge students to push themselves physically and creatively, reinforcing the importance of teamwork and testing one's own potential. By the end of this course, students will be comfortable snowboarding and inspired to commit to a lifetime of new adventures.



## 26. Spill the T

*Instructors: K. Nam*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

In this course, students will be given an opportunity to take a break from their busy school life and to reflect on various important topics such as the meaning of life, one's identity, good and evil, the problem of suffering, science (and mathematics) vs. religion, and the notion of truth, to name a few. To help students slow down and reflect on such important topics, they will learn how to brew tea (both western and eastern traditions) and third-wave specialty coffee (various brewing methods), and visit local cafes and roasters. Students will engage in discussions after reading books and watching films, and they will learn to use fountain pens to slow down and to regularly write their reflections in their journals. Students will be exposed to different world religions, but mainly focusing on the Judeo-Christian tradition. At the end of the course, each student will be writing their own "what I believe" credo paper. This course requires an open mind and a willingness to engage in deeper conversations.

## 27. Swift Moves

*Instructors: A. Johnston & L. McDowell*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course invites you to explore the fascinating world of female icons, with a special focus on Taylor Swift and Caitlin Clark. Through a series of engaging case studies, we'll delve into the intricacies of celebrity fandom and examine how these two influential figures have shaped the modern music industry and athletics. Throughout the course, we'll dissect their careers from every angle, considering their backgrounds, controversies, and evolution as artists and athletes. We'll journey through the different eras of their careers, analyzing the factors that propelled them to superstardom. We'll also explore how we connect with celebrities in the digital age and how performance intersects with community. We hope to attend a women's college basketball game, a PWHL game, and a local music concert with a female artist. There will be an opportunity to also express your creativity as a fan by contributing something meaningful to your chosen fandom. This project will encourage you to apply critical thinking and self-reflection to study fandom and pop culture.  
#Swifties #EveryoneWatchesWomensSports

## 28. Science Olympiad

*Instructor: M. Dixon & G. Saucedo*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry and Service*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

The [Science Olympiad](#) Winter term, was suggested by Students who wanted to participate in the State Science Olympiad, be exposed to various types of Sciences (from Astronomy, Anatomy, Forensics, Applied Mathematics, Engineering builds and the like). We will use the time to prepare for our Science Olympiad Team events, such as going to the MIT invitational Olympiad in January (to Observe), and possibly go to any open preliminary competitions. Finally we will also help run a mini engineering competition for an area school.

## 29. The End of the World as We Know It: Dystopian and Apocalyptic Film

*Instructor: D. Charpentier*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

With the explosion of dystopian and post-apocalyptic literature over the last twenty-five years, it is no surprise that the film industry reflects that same trend. In this course, students will dive deeply into the evolution of dystopian and post-apocalyptic film; examine the reasons we—particularly adolescents—are so drawn to this genre; critique the films as contemporary texts, stories, and films; and attempt to understand the films' connections to literature and other art, as well as to contemporary political and social issues. Students will view a wide variety of dystopian and post-apocalyptic film, from early 20th century works like the foundational *Metropolis*, to modern franchises such as the foundation of contemporary dystopian film *Blade Runner*, *The Hunger Games*, *Terminator*, *Mad Max*, and *The Matrix*, to animated films like *Akira*, *Ghost in the Shell*, *Alita*, and *Wall-E*, and many more.

## 30. Walking Boston

*Instructors: P. Willis & A. Wang*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Examine and learn about the history, culture, landscape and architecture of the great city of Boston. Students will research various sections of the city from its formation, historical significance, the culture and people for whom the area is known, and will then guide the class through these areas of Boston. Students will learn to use the MBTA system, will explore local food and culture, and go beyond the tourist highlights of Boston to understand its history, significance and culture. The highlight of this course will be the opportunity to explore the city and see the student's research while walking Boston on foot. Comfortable shoes and winter weather gear are a must for this course.

### 31. Winter in New England

*Instructors: D. Coriale & S. Spollett*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$150*

In this course, we will explore the unique ways that New Englanders have entertained themselves, stayed active, built community, kept warm, and made meaning during the darkest and coldest months of the year. On field trips, we will try out regional winter activities like curling, sleigh rides, maple sugaring, tobogganing, ice skating, and cross-country skiing, and explore the cuisine and industries that New Englanders developed in the coldest months. In the classroom, we will consider the literature and visual art that New England winters have inspired, and examine the climate models of past and future winters in the region. As we learn about the ways that New Englanders adapted to the harsh conditions of the past and forged a vibrant winter culture, we will also think about how regional conceptions of winter are transforming with climate change and study the work that local people are doing to preserve and adjust their cold weather traditions.

### 32. Winter Term Independent

*Advisor: J. McDonough*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: TBD!*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Have an idea for an independent project on-campus or in the surrounding community? Want to explore a particular passion or interest? Have an idea for a product you'd like to create? Sixth-form students have the opportunity to propose a Winter Term Independent, a project they will work on on-campus during the three week Winter Term. Students will be expected to present their final projects during the Winter Term symposium. Students will need to submit a proposal to Ms. McDonough to gain approval for an independent. Students will be expected to be based on-campus for their Winter Term Independent and will be able to take day trips in the surrounding areas as necessary. **Proposals will be accepted until October 2, 2024 .**

*NOTE. Winter Term Independents are open to sixth-form students only. [Winter Term Independent Proposal linked here!](#)*