

Winter Term 2020 Course Catalog

The following courses are offered during Winter Term 2020. Courses are listed alphabetically by title. Some courses are limited to third formers; others are open only to fourth, fifth, and sixth formers. Instructors and the estimated student cost are also listed. The cost to most students will be approximately \$100 or less for books, materials or minor expenses (\$). NOTE: In a few cases indicated below, the relatively high cost of offering the course (usually related to travel expenses) requires to school to ask for a larger student contribution beyond books and materials (+\$).

Course selection begins Tuesday November 19 and ends Saturday November 23. Students rank six courses in which they have interest and would be excited to participate. Students are enrolled based a number of factors, including individual interest, form and winter afternoon activity. All things being equal and in the interest of fairness, students are assigned according to a random lottery number by class, generated by the academic office. Except in special circumstances approved by Mr. Latham, students may not take the same Winter Term course twice.

Third Form Winter Term Courses

Third form courses are designed to introduce students to the Brooks model of Winter Term, a time to learn and study in ways our usual schedule does not permit. This involves taking one course with six hours of contact time per day for two and a half weeks. Winter Term courses in general emphasize breadth over depth and include interdisciplinary content, collaboration among students and faculty, and experiential and project-based learning. Focused more on process than result, courses are graded pass/fail. In addition, third form courses help students learn more about themselves and their classmates, practice leadership and other roles in a group setting, and develop their presentation skills. Class time is more structured. Third form courses end with the Symposium, the culminating Winter Term event where all students show what they have accomplished. Third formers finish the term ready to tackle the challenges and opportunities of Winter Term in the future.

Adventures in Professional Pathways

Goodman, McCampbell, & Medved
Estimated cost: \$

Do you wonder about your future? What are your interests, your passions, your thoughts for a career? In this Winter Term course, we meet with a life coach who helps us identify our strengths and values, all for the long term goal of identifying potential future careers. Then, we explore four broad paths for future studies: humanities, sciences, public service/safety, and business. We travel to Cambridge where we perform a hands-on lab at a biotech company and also tour a state-of-the-art high tech headquarters. We hear from a neuroscientist and a high tech Vice President about their careers and the paths they took to reach them. A member of the FBI comes to campus to talk with us about his job and how he spends his days working for the government. He leads students through an activity where they must distill real news from fake news in order to suss out the truth. A museum curator talks about her journey in museum work and also gives us a tour of the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston. Finally, other guest speakers talk with the class about their careers and what course of studies might lead one in their career directions.

Balance

Graham & McLean

Expected Cost: +\$150 (includes a unicycle, hacky sack and juggling set)

In this class, we creatively explore the various ways balance plays a role in nurturing community. You learn to unicycle and hacky sack, and you spend time together outdoors. We explore outdoor cooking, with a primary focus on making pizza, while we carve out campus niches to hammock. Though we do a lot of physical activities, from indoor skydiving to campus walks, we also learn chess, sip tea, and discuss ideas and ourselves. You learn how to analyze a film, and we play a lot of darts and pool. Your final project is a digital story about your journey. Expect to bond with your classmates, make lasting friendships, and take communal, joy-based steps toward living a mindful, growth-oriented life.

Brooks Is Cooking!

Schenkel & KMcDowell

Expected Cost: \$

What's better than sharing a meal with friends or family?

Come learn how to cook this winter term. Learn how food is used in many international cultures as well as our own. Would you like to learn how to read a cookbook and analyze a cooking show? How about making your own cookbook and creating a cooking show? Learn about all aspects of food and cooking. Does this sound good to you? If your answer is yes then join us this winter term!

History Detectives

Latham & Moltz

Expected Cost: \$

How do we know what really happened in the past? Historians, and detectives, collect and examine evidence to reconstruct historical events. Eyewitness accounts, documents, photographs, artifacts, and forensics are among the clues historians use to help solve mysteries from the past. In this course, we examine a number of New England history mysteries, including the Sacco and Vanzetti murder case, the Gardner Museum robbery, Senator Kennedy's deadly car accident at Chappaquiddick, the Salem Witch Trials, and who first stepped foot on Plymouth Rock. Students also tackle a history mystery of their own choosing and present the outcome of their research in a short documentary film. Trips to relevant local sites are planned.

How Did Massachusetts Get Its Name?

SWaters & Nasser

Expected Cost: \$

Starting with the earth beneath our feet, we want to know who lived on the shores of Lake Cochichewick and called it home before Europeans arrived in the 17th century. Where are the ancestors of those Penacooks now? How did their tribespeople live, and how do they live present day? Using this as a launchpad for further exploration into North American indigenous cultures, we learn about Native Americans in the Northeast, and then broaden our learning to include tribes from

different regions throughout North America. With visits to local reservations, museums and universities, we focus on North American indigenous cultures as they existed before European contact up through contemporary 21st century America.

Mock Trial

Hayes, Neissa, & Veit

Expected 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.

General Winter Term Courses

A Taste of Ancient Greece: A Quest through Language, Culture, & Food

Clater & Davies

Expected Cost: \$

Want to learn about ancient Greek culture and language? About heroes, quests, and gods? How about learning the language of Socrates and Alexander the Great? Do you want to master that really cool alphabet ubiquitous on college campuses? Do you want to dive into Greek cuisine and taste the classic dishes this climate produces?

This class surveys the ancient civilization whose location made it a crossroads of cultures and set the foundation for what we now call Western culture. You can dip your toes in major philosophical developments, explore the “mystery religions” that predate Christianity, find out what makes a hero heroic, understand the beginnings of science, and see how the ideas of comedy and tragedy were born. Ancient Greeks started asking “why” and we continue that practice as we examine this incredible civilization. Come on an Odyssey with us through ancient Greek language and culture!

Trips include Greek restaurants, a Greek Orthodox church, and a visit to the MFA in Boston.

Beyond the Lights: Telling the Story of Sports

Kelley

Expected Cost: \$

For many, watching or attending a sporting event is a way to unwind. But for others, every event is an opportunity to tell a compelling story or provide an unforgettable fan experience. In this class, we

look at what goes on behind-the-scenes of your favorite sporting events from both the media and institutional side to produce the articles you read and the interviews you see.

Brooks Goes to Pre-School

KSmith & Griffith

Expected Cost: \$

Do you love kids? Want to try being on the other side of a classroom? In partnership with the YWCA in Lawrence, Brooks students spend their time working in pre-school classrooms in the Y's early education program, supporting teachers and serving as mentors to their young charges. Work includes helping to reinforce class routines, promoting school readiness, reading and comprehension skills, and planning and leading lessons. Brooks students engage in daily reflection of their experiences and observations during this most challenging and rewarding work. Shared readings help to more closely examine the issues facing their young students. Participants come away with a greater understanding of meaningful outreach in the community as well as some wonderful new young friends.

Car Wars

Gallo & MKeller

Expected Cost: \$

The purpose of this course is to immerse students in the fundamentals of automotive theory, maintenance and restoration in both intellectual and physical ways. We present broad treatments of the various systems of the modern and mid-century automobile. Those systems include general engine theory, braking, fuel, ignition, electrics/electronics, cooling, emissions, diagnostics, drivetrain, suspension and steering, as well as a survey of general and specialized tools. Experts address the class on restoration, diagnosis, bodywork, welding, and suspensions. The most salient feature of the course, and probably the most meaningful, is the hands-on experience gained from a major project: in this case Dusty's own classic Jaguar. We also perform general maintenance on school vehicles and some personal ones, whenever such work is illustrative of the aforementioned treatments. We constantly assess the students' work, both individually and collectively. Students write a final evaluation; their work is thoroughly documented through photography.

Chasing Creativity: Exploring why artists make art, and cultivating your own inner artist

Perkins & Bruun

Expected Cost: \$

Through the ages and across cultures, humans have turned to art to express big ideas and deep emotions. Across time, people have made art for spiritual reasons, social justice reasons, commercial reasons, for personal discovery, self-expression, and much more.

In this course, we examine the meanings and purposes of a wide variety of art: we meet artists, visit art exhibitions, and discuss art of all kinds, learning what drives art-making at the most basic level.

As we go, we use what we learn to inform our own creative explorations, learning some art-making skills along the way. We take what interests us from the cross-section of artists we study and use it as our own inspiration.

Whether you hope to find your inner artist or want to expand your current art practice, this course – exposing you to a wide variety of art and allowing you to explore your curiosity about art-making – is for you.

Health & Human Disease

Mandzhukova

Expected Cost: \$

Did you know that there are approximately 15,500,000 survivors of cancer as of January 2016? Within this population, 62% of the survivors are more than 65 years old.¹ Do you find this data interesting? This course offers an introduction to cancer diagnosis, treatment, and clinical implications for people who develop cancer. Although cancer is the primary focus of the course, there are opportunities to explore other student-driven interests during our time together. Students also observe a surgery at Massachusetts General Hospital, learn the basics of first aid, and complete a genetics lab.

(¹<https://cancercontrol.cancer.gov/ocs/statistics/statistics.html>)

In order to attend surgery, students are required to have all immunizations up-to-date and a TB test performed in the last 6 months. The needed information will be coordinated with the help of the Health Center.

Learn to Play Guitar

Sciuto & CKeller

Expected Cost: \$

This course is designed for non-guitar players or students with very little experience. We cover how to play basic songs through reading chord symbols, music notation and tablature. Students also learn about playing in a group environment. The class studies the history of the guitar and the important players who have changed and developed many different styles.

Lego Engineering

Hesse & Wyatt

Expected Cost: \$

Lego is an ideal medium for engineering and design, because prototypes can rapidly be built, tested, and modified without wasting material. In this course, we design and build Lego objects to meet the criteria of various structural, mechanical, and even artistic challenges in an atmosphere that stresses both teamwork and competition. Along the way, we gain insight into the engineering cycle of specification, design, prototyping, and testing. From gearboxes to mechanical toys to architectural marvels to 3-dimensional portraits, Lego can do it all -- and you will, too!

Passion to Pass It On

Miller & GDobbins

Expected 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 spend several nights in 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, and poverty are the four general areas we examine, from root causes to sources of relief for people who are affected by these issues.

We learn, in detail, about four nonprofits: how they work and the communities they help in the Boston area. Throughout the course, you become a philanthropist and study a specific organization that you then support with a grant.

Learn what it feels like to make a difference.

Pottery and Raku

TSmith, McLoughlin, & guest Laura Nichols

Expected Cost: \$

Throw pots, make masks and light them on fire! Under the teaching leadership of professional potter [Laura Nichols](#), we learn and develop our skills on and off the potter's wheel, build an outdoor raku kiln on the Quad and explore the ancient firing technique of Raku right here on Brooks' own campus. You will be surprised how your throwing skills improve and how satisfying it is to see your pot or sculpture through its transformation from mud to art. We take occasional trips off-campus to galleries and studios. Some previous experience with ceramics would be great but not necessary at all.

What is Raku? Modern Raku is best described as a firing process in which the pot is taken up to approximately 1800 degrees in a propane-fueled kiln. At this point, the pot is removed from the fire and placed into a container filled with combustible material - newspaper, leaves, shavings, hay, etc. - resulting in a lively fire. 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 change color in dramatic and unpredictable ways. For winter term we will offer the following: Raku Western style, Obvara Raku, Horsehair Raku, and Pit Fire.

Setting the Stage

Hill

Expected Cost: +\$100-\$200

From backstage to Broadway this winter term offers students the opportunity to create a production based on a current issue. Students spend time on and offstage as they write, direct, design, and tour

their production to local schools and libraries. Part of the experience involves a field trip to see a production; we're aiming for Broadway!

Spill the T

Nam

Expected Cost: \$

In this course, students are given an opportunity to take a break from distractions in their busy life and reflect on the truth and the meaning of life. This class mainly consists of discussions and conversations on various topics including searching for one's identity, world religions (mainly the Judeo-Christian tradition), and more. While "spilling the T(ruth)," students learn how to brew T(ea) following both western and eastern traditions, and coffee using various brewing methods. Students also learn how to use fountain pens and they are asked to regularly write their reflections in their journals. To be successful in this course, you need to be willing to open up and engage in deep conversations.

Step-Up: Step, Stomp, & Slide

Fredette & Burbank

Expected Cost: \$

Join us in a studio and seminar based experience to learn foundational dance styles of stepping and stomping with an occasional slide. All levels of dancers and non-dancers are welcome. Participants learn about dance both rhythmically and culturally. Off campus excursions may include viewing performances, visiting studios and meeting with amateur and professional dancers. Whether you like rhythm, dance or both, this course provides you with the opportunity to move!



Still Waters: Creative Writing Workshop

DCharpentier & Donoho

Expected Cost: \$

Love to write but don't have the time? Working on something and want some feedback? Have you always wanted to live the writing life? Then this course is for you! In this class, you have the time to imagine, create, share, receive feedback and revise. Work on one long piece or a collection of shorter works. The course is divided into three phases: in the first phase, the instructors walk you through a series of writing exercises designed to both produce ideas and practice specific skills. In the second phase, you focus on producing a volume of work – the majority of your time is devoted to this creative process, along with giving and receiving feedback in workshops as you work toward polished pieces. The third phase is devoted to fine-tuning, publishing in some way, and doing public readings. You will be surprised at what you can accomplish!

Still Waters: Poetry

Haile & Jester

Expected Cost: \$

Still Waters: Poetry is a course designed to allow students to explore the world of human expression through poetry. We play with a wide range of poetic styles, listening to and learning from the work and wisdom of contemporary poets and some favorites from the past. We interview working poets, attend poetry readings and take inspirational field trips around greater Boston. Ultimately, each member of this Winter Term course compiles a substantial portfolio of his or her own work, and has a chance to workshop those poems with peers. We write, write, write--indoors and out, day and night. It's going to be a lot of fun!

Shredding Sociology

RDobbins & Rooney

Expected Cost: +\$150

Surf vs. Snow vs. Terra Firma: An Inside Look. New England is known for its beaches and its mountains, and in this class, we will examine both. How has the culture of surfing evolved from anti-authoritarian to a multi-billion dollar business? What are the new economics of the ski and snowboard industry? How did surfing help skateboarding and snowboarding evolve? This course provides an introduction to the science, sustainability, economics, and culture behind the three sports. We use two New England companies as a guide for our learning, both of which build products with their hands. Students produce a surfboard with Grain Surfboards up in York, Maine, which notes the importance of having a passion for the environment and supporting local ecosystems. In addition, we do a project build with Parlor Skis based in East Boston, who believes strongly in the New England tradition of hard work and making things the right way.

If you pick this course be prepared to go surfing at Surf's Up in Nashua, NH, eat tacos in Hampton, NH, take trips Parlor/Grain, spend time in the Makerspace and get your hands dirty. Previous experience in any of the sports is not required.

The Art and Science of Scuba Diving

Hajdukiewicz & Moccia

Expected Cost: +\$3000 (includes certification and dive trip to Cozumel during the final week of winter term)

Note: Students considering signing up for this course should talk to Mrs. H first.

This course introduces students to the history, science, equipment and technology of scuba diving. Students also develop an appreciation for the experience of scuba. Successful completion of the course results in student PADI (Professional Association of Diving Instructors) certification in open water diving, which is a lifelong certification. The course is offered in conjunction with Dive the World and owner Susan Copelas. The course involves a number of day trips, including the New England Aquarium, the pool for dive instruction, the Coast Guard station in Gloucester, and the Dive Locker, a local museum of scuba diving history. Students perform laboratory exercises involving the respiratory system and gas laws. Evening speakers discuss careers in scuba diving, such as commercial diving or rescue diving. At the end of the course, students will go on an all-inclusive

week-long trip to complete their certification check out dives in Cozumel. Hotel, diving, airfare and all meals are included. Students must purchase their own mask/fin/snorkel for the course.

The Complexity of War

Packard & WWaters

Expected Cost: +\$400

Using the Vietnam War as our point of entry, this course also considers more recent American involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan as we attempt to think together about the incredibly complex challenges facing those who have authorized and waged these wars. While we spend some time examining the origins, context, and chronology of all three conflicts, we are primarily focused on doing all we can to understand what war is like from the perspective of those who have experienced it firsthand. We aim to interview veterans of all three of these wars in order to get in touch with living history, and to be able to reflect on the similarities and differences of individual experiences at different points in time. We read selections by those who experienced or observed these wars up close in an effort to enhance our sense of war itself. We take a look at both documentary and feature films in order to examine the range of ways in which these wars have been treated on screen. We travel to Washington, DC, and visit the Vietnam Memorial, among others, along with the Smithsonian's American History Museum, Arlington National Cemetery, and a number of other monuments, memorials, and museums within our reach. While in Washington, we try to connect with alumni, alumnae, and friends of the school who have helped us visit and meet the following through the past five years: The National Museum of the Marine Corps, The White House, The Situation Room, The United States Congress, Senator John McCain, Congressman Seth Moulton, and The Pentagon. We ask students to keep a journal through the course in order to reflect on and share experiences we are having together. The course culminates with a group project that centers on the questions we find to be the most core to understanding and thinking about the debate over war's complexity, necessity, tragedy, and many costs.

The Great Outdoors

Lafond, Benson, & Holmes

Expected Cost: +\$200

NOTE: Due to conditions imposed by outside trip leaders, students must be 16 years of age by January 7, 2020 in order to participate in this course.

Come explore and enjoy the great outdoors in winter. Our focus is getting out into nature and enjoying the season through ice climbing, skiing (alpine and telemarking), and hiking. We spend time in the White Mountains of New Hampshire learning about avalanche safety and awareness, along with winter survival skills. We also spend time learning navigation skills using a map and compass, as well as a GPS. 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.

The History & Culture of Yoga

Dinescu, Sherrell, & Federico

Expected Cost: +\$200

Yoga, meaning “connection,” is a way of life that pre-exists even the most ancient of eastern religions. It is a way to better connect with ourselves, others, and the world around us. The path of yoga is a crossroads of 8 individual practices: thinking morally, personal reflection, meditation, physical posture practice, breathing exercises, exercises to improve your senses and mental focus, and the final destination....bliss!

Over this winter term we dip our toes in the world of yoga and practice these 8 “limbs” of yoga. Each day, there is a physical yoga practice, meditations, breathing and mental focus exercises and discussions on yogic philosophy and morality. We take a look at different ways people practice yoga in the world. Some find joy through music and dancing, others through selfless service, while others practice meditation and movement. We become more flexible and strong in order to help heal the body and mind. During trip days, we visit local and Bostonian yoga studios, vegetarian cafés and juice bars, and attend meditation lectures. Additionally, there is a two day yoga retreat from Sunday, January 12th until Tuesday, January 14th. During these two days, we hike, cook together, and are disconnected from the hustle and bustle of campus life and practice yoga in a beautiful farm house in Vermont set up as a yoga retreat center. Please note you will miss your afternoon activities that Monday and Tuesday for the retreat so plan ahead.

The Power of Observation

Wheelden & Carabatsos

Expected Cost: \$

How do you see the world? How much does prior experience impact your observations? This course is designed to explore how we see the world and what skills are gained through observation. We use original works of art in a museum setting to help strengthen Visual Thinking Strategies (VTS). VTS is a research-based observation approach that fosters critical thinking, careful observation, generating inferences, and revising ideas--all skills that are useful in the field outside of art. Students practice their own VTS skill development by visiting local galleries in and around Boston (MFA, ICA for example). We implement a VTS lesson that we teach to elementary school students in Lowell. This school visit also includes an art-on-a-cart project that the students can keep associated with our lesson. There is time set aside for the science behind how we see things (maybe even dissect an eyeball!). As a culminating project for the course, each student creates a final work of art that is displayed as part of the Winter Term symposium.

The Power of Positive Living!

Johnston & O'Brien

Expected Cost: \$

Are you worried about the future and how to live a healthy lifestyle? Take this winter term course and learn about the power of positive living! We look at what is great in people and help them learn how to cater and direct their lives towards playing to their strengths. You discover your personal strengths and virtues and use them to learn how to secure your own personal state of happiness. We

use various hands-on activities as well as self-exploration activities to help discover those strengths. We also explore what healthy relationships are in the 21st century and how the pressures of society today have changed how people relate to one another. This winter term course also provides you with basic survival skills for the “real world”. You will know how to be a successful young adult in today’s world. We focus on tasks such as how to pay your bills, balance a checkbook, network for a job, and cook. If you would like to look at the world in a more knowledgeable, confident, and positive way, please sign up for this course!

Toy Stories: The Role of Toys in Imagination, Culture, & Development

McDonough & Musto

Expected Cost: \$

What was your favorite toy as a child? Was it Molly, the American Girl Doll living in World War II America? Was it a Darth Vader Action Figure based on the movie *Star Wars*? Both these toys are connected to stories, yet when children play with them the stories the children create often transcend the story to add new plots that suit their development. Toys and stories are interconnected in many ways that involve child development, marketing, and culture. In this winter term course, we explore the history around toys and childhood and how companies go about constructing and developing these toys. How much of it is marketing, child development research or just plain fun? To what extent do toys and toy companies create and reinforce gender and racial stereotypes? We hope to visit museums, toy stores, and toy companies and speak with psychologists and marketers to get a better sense of how these toys are developed. The course culminates with each student creating their own toy and accompanying story based upon the ideas and principles we discover in the course.

UP Live!

Davis & Campbell

Expected Cost: \$

The Disney-Pixar epic animated film, *UP*, arrived in theaters on May 29, 2009. The movie tells the story of a widower name Carl Fredricksen who, in memory of his late wife, decides to fly his home to Paradise Falls using balloons attached to his house. However, in the process, he brings an unlikely stowaway along for the journey. *UP* was both a commercial hit (\$735 million worldwide box office) and a critical success (98% on Rotten Tomatoes). The movie’s major themes of loss, friendship, and a sense of adventure resonate not only with the target audience of children but with anyone, young or old, that views it.

In this winter term course, we put on a live action parody performance of the movie *UP* in its entirety. Following the highly successful performances of *Titanic Live*, *The Dark Knight Live*, and *Jurassic Park Live*, *UP Live* will be the largest and most complex performance yet! During our time together, we write the script, build a scaled down version of the house from the movie, 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.

Walking Boston: Its Neighborhoods and History

Price & Heinze

Expected Cost: \$

Boston has a very rich and tumultuous history – its accessibility makes it a terrific classroom. Students explore Boston’s physical growth and change, its place in historical events and its landmarks, its shifting ethnic populations, how the city has struggled to renew itself in the last 50 years and where it is today. Reading, virtual sources and classroom activities are multicultural in nature. Walking Boston and its neighborhoods is a central activity of the course, as is speaking with residents who are transforming the city today. Students keep journals of walking tours, conduct and present oral histories/interviews, and collaborate on a group-designed culminating project.