



## **Winter Term 2024**

January 3-20

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

The following courses are offered during Winter Term 2024.

New in 2024, courses are categorized in one of three immersive learning skill areas:

Inquiry, Adventure, and Service.

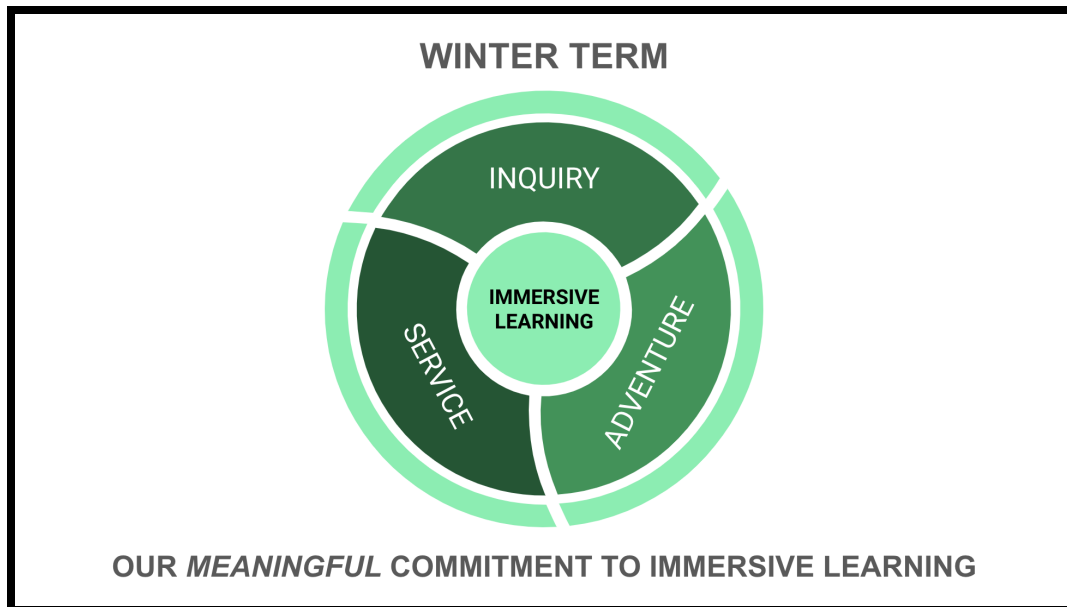
We are offering full day and half day courses. Students enrolled in a full day course will be enrolled in one class for the duration of Winter Term. Students enrolled in a half day course will take two classes for the duration of Winter Term.

Off campus travel and trips will be scheduled for both full day and half day courses.

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 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***

1. Course Catalog Published: Monday, September 11
2. Winter Term Fair: Tuesday, September 19
3. Course Selection Round 1 Due (see courses below): Tuesday, September 26
  - a. *If students are interested in any of the following courses, they will submit a Round 1 course selection form via their advisor:*
    - i. *Cabin in the Woods, Surf's Up , DEIB Deep Dive, El Camino, Brooks Exchange-Morocco, Fair Winds and Following Seas, Guardians of the Sea, Italian Art and Culture*
4. Rosters set for Round 1 courses: October 3. *No waitlist.*
5. Course Selection Round 2 Due (all other courses): Tuesday, October 10
  - a. *Students submit course selections via advisor*
6. All courses will be enrolled by Monday, October 30
7. Waitlist Open: Until Monday, November 13
8. Final course placements confirmed before departure for November break

**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.**

**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***

Winter Term begins on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 and concludes on Saturday, January 20, 2024 with the symposium. All classes will share final projects, presentations, portfolios, or reflections at the symposium. All members of the Brooks community, including families, are invited to attend the symposium. Attendance at the symposium is required for all students. A detailed daily schedule will be published by Monday, October 30.

## ***QUESTIONS?***

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

## American Dog: Past and Present

*Instructor: G. Saucedo*

*Course Type: Half Day*

*Can be paired with Environmental Justice, Strength & Conditioning or Winter One Act*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Do you currently share your life with a dog? If you don't, it's likely that you know someone who does. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, more than 48 million households in the United States have at least one dog as a member. The role these dogs play in the lives of their human families has changed drastically over time. Whether looking at what they are fed, how they are trained, or where they come from, trends over the last century have swung from one end of the spectrum to the other when it comes to what responsible dog guardians are supposed to do. In this course, we'll study that evolution and examine the reasons behind the changes. Why have some breeds seen their popularity skyrocket to such levels that overbreeding has become a real concern? Why do more than 3 million dogs enter animal shelters in the US each year? These are just some of the questions and issues we'll consider as we examine the evolving role of "man's best friend" in American life using books, articles, podcasts, and films. But no one can truly study the importance of dogs in American daily life without spending time with actual pooches themselves, so we'll do that as well. Part of each day will be devoted to dog walking and dog training. You may be surprised at the skills you discover in yourself and your canine co-pilot during this part of the course. Regardless of how good your down/stay ends up being by the end of winter term, there is no doubt that all of the furry companionship will have helped lower your stress levels and made some good doggy boy or girl very happy.

## Baseball

*Instructors: M. Bruschi, K. Evans, M. McDowell*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$300*

***Cooperstown Travel Dates: Monday, January 15-Tuesday, January 16***

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.

## Breaking Bad

*Instructor: D. Charpentier*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

*Breaking Bad* debuted on AMC in 2008 amidst a resurgence of television series that had some critics calling it the new Golden Age of television. With the proliferation of streaming services and cable networks willing to push the envelope, as well as bigger budgets, television series began to rival cinematic films in their scope and intention.

While amazing series like *Mad Men* mimicked the more traditional serial shows, and the incredible *The Walking Dead* looked to bring the sensibilities of the graphic novel to the small screen, *Breaking Bad* was unique in its literary approach. *Breaking Bad* was a novel onscreen—the show explored an epic scope and arc that played out slowly while at the same time digging deeply into character, theme, and the minutiae of the characters' daily lives and conflicts.

*Breaking Bad* made no effort to hide its literary aspirations, and its overt and thematic allusions to Walt Whitman, Greek tragedy, and Shakespeare, among many others, gave the series a unique depth.

*NOTE. Due to mature subject matter and potentially triggering topics, students under 17 must obtain parental permission.*

## Brooks Exchange - Morocco

*Instructor: L. Saunders*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

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

***Travel Dates: Thursday or Friday January 4-5 through February 3***

Exchange overlaps with Winter Term for the first time in Exchange history! Two students will travel together from Brooks School via Boston Logan International Airport to the American School of Tangier in Tangier, Morocco. During this immersive experience, students live with host families, explore the Moroccan region and culture and attend school for approximately four weeks. Exchange students return about a week and a half after semester 2 classes begin. Planning and preparations for this experience occur after selection up through departure for the winter break.

This experience is open to all fifth- and sixth-form students. Program fee is \$1200. Additional expenses may include spending money and costs associated with passport renewals, travel visa and immunizations.

## **Brooks History and Film**

*Instructors: L. Latham and 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.

## **Building Books**

*Instructors: S. Spicer and G. Reese*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course will explore the history of the things we call "books" - what are they? How are they made? What are they for? We will look at the ways books have changed the course of history from the earliest books, to the printing press, to modern day publishing and the world of electronic information. But not only will we study their impact, we will study the physical objects themselves: the materials and techniques that artists, craftspeople, and machines use to create them and the design that goes into the composition and cover art. By the end of Winter Term, we will have practiced many of these techniques ourselves and each student will have designed and created their own book.

## Cabin in the Woods

*Instructors: M. Nagel and S. Nagel*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$450*

***Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Thursday, January 18***

Let's make a horror film! 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 four day trip to the mountain forests of Northern New England, the quintessential setting of many things horror, to film inside of our very own *cabin in the woods*.

The priorities of this term are personal creativity, collaboration, exploration, visual literacy, technical proficiency, and above all else, excitement and fun!

*NOTE. Due to mature subject matter and potentially triggering topics, students 17 or under must obtain parental permissions. Additionally, students should reach out ahead of Winter Term to let us know of any trigger warnings they may require.*

## 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).*

## DEIB Deep Dive “The Power of Space and Place: Traveling the Road to Justice”

*Instructors: T. Ofori and J. Hurtado*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Service*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$2,645*

***Savannah Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Thursday, January 18***

This program considers the impact of geography, environment, and diaspora on the development of community values and culture by looking at two different experiences: the urban environment of Savannah, GA and the rural Gullah-Geechee culture on the barrier sea islands. The Gullah-Geechee culture is distinctive and found only in the Lowcountry: the Gullah-Geechee people are descended from formerly enslaved people, primarily from the West Coast of Africa.

## El Camino

*Instructors: N. Rios-Moya and T. Read*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$2,950*

***Spain Travel Dates: Thursday, January 11-Thursday, January 18***

¡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 2024, the course is open to male 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.



## Elements of Screenwriting

*Instructor: I. Speliotis*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course is an examination of the life blood of Hollywood, *the screenplay*. Students in this course will familiarize themselves with format, vocabulary, and the general recipe of scripts. We will be reading scripts for film, scripts for television, and even actual plays. We will be watching movies to see dialogue come to life! Dissecting action sequences to see what makes the great ones...great! We will be examining characters—the good, the bad, and the ugly (if I didn't utilize this, the course would lose all credibility) to truly see desirable roles for artists.

Students will create their own short scripts! They will develop original characters, workshop dialogue, and study the process of writing. The heart of this class is a writers workshop. Students are encouraged to collaborate with their peers to boost their own portfolio. As the old saying goes, “a bad script written is still better than an amazing one that is not.” This course is to give students a tangible, written piece of work. And hopefully, spark a passion.

## Environmental Justice: Building Sustainable Cities

*Instructor: S. Antunes*

*Course Type: Half Day*

*Can be paired with American Dog or Strength & Conditioning*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry/Service*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course will engage students in a broad range of topics including sustainability, urban planning and environment hazards while also including aspects of public policy and social/environmental justice. In this course, students will implement all aspects of the engineering design process where they will define, ask, imagine, plan, prototype, test and improve on their own environmentally just, sustainable cities through using the SIM City software application. Students will be able to gain an understanding of the important aspects affecting disproportionate communities while also learning critical components that are implemented in building sustainable cities.

## Fair Winds and Following Seas

*Instructors: N. Hanlon and S. Ludi*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$1,900*

***Florida Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Thursday January 18***

Ahoy, mateys! Jump aboard this course to learn about maritime life and skills and sail away with your American Sailboat Association Keelboat 101 Sailing Certification. The first part of the class will focus on: 1) lessons in coastal navigation (reading nautical charts and understanding tides and currents) 2) lessons in celestial navigation (using the sun, moon, and stars to find your way in the ocean) 3) nautical knots 4) meteorology (observing and forecasting weather conditions using traditional maritime skills and technology) 5) 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 first-hand what organizations in our area are doing to protect New England's 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 Key Largo, Florida for four nights to complete a Keelboat 101 Sailing Certification course and explore the maritime ecology and heritage of the Florida Keys.

*NOTE. Ability to swim required for participation in this course.*

## FireTrail Theatre On Tour: School Stages to Broadway!

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

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Service*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$450*

***NYC Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Monday, January 15***

Learn to take a show on the road and bring some joy to younger students in this multifaceted theatrical course! We'll spend our time learning and rehearsing *Main Street Kids' Club: A MathStart Musical* with a goal of bringing this musical to local elementary schools. Very different from a Brooks mainstage musical, this will be a scrappy, make-it-work, everyone-does-everything experience. This is a great opportunity for anyone interested in musical theater, set design, or working with young people. As part of this course, we'll travel to New York City to see a Broadway show.

## Game Development

*Instructors: C. Gorton and R. Bauer*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

What do Among Us, Pokémon Go, Monument Valley and scores of other top video games have in common? They were all built by creative developers using the Unity game engine! This Winter Term course will immerse you in the world of game development as you learn to use Unity and develop your own creations. After learning some of the basics, you will be encouraged to go in any direction you want. You may create a 2D platformer, a first-person POV, or a 3D world for exploration. Depending on preferences, you may work independently or with a partner. Coding experience is not necessary but it will allow you to apply more sophisticated logic to your game. A computer purchased within the last two or three years should be sufficient, but this work is not for meek hardware!

## Going Viral: Marketing Winter Term

*Instructors: J. O'Neill, J. Ries, L. McDowell*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

In this hands-on course, you will work closely with the Communications Office and Admission Office to improve 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 videos, photography, vlogging, podcasts? Bring that interest to helping us document and promote all of the happenings of Winter Term, and Brooks in general. You will also be giving tours during Winter Term and helping us find ways to improve the visitor experience. We need YOU to show the world how amazing Winter Term is and help us bring more awesome kids to Brooks!

## Great Outdoors

*Instructors: T. Benson and L. Lafond*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$300*

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 3, 2024 in order to participate in this course.*

## Guardians of the Sea

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

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure/Service*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$2,950*

***Roatan Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Sunday, January 21***

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, shark overfishing, and the ethical considerations of using animals in tourism. 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 Roatan, where they will experience the breathtaking beauty of diving firsthand. In Roatan, students will actively contribute to conservation efforts through participation in a coral reef restoration program. They will also assist in the eradication protocols for the invasive lionfish species, while gaining valuable insights into shark and turtle conservation. By immersing themselves in these initiatives, 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.

## Hawks and Doves

*Instructor: J. Packard and W. Waters*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$500*

***Washington, DC Travel Dates: Tuesday, January 16-Thursday January 18***

In this course, students will be part of a deep dive into American politics. We will begin by coming to know and understand one another in an effort to position ourselves to engage in healthy dialogue about ideological points of view, challenging national issues, and public policy in an age of pronounced dissonance and polarization. We will spend time learning about our own individual political identity in an effort to better understand what matters to us and why. With a better understanding of who we are sharing the course with and our own political identity, we will be prepared to look closely at American politics in the brave space we hope to foster. We will look closely at the many national issues of the day; read a range of viewpoints on those issues; watch films and news clips that approach and characterize the issues differently; meet with elected officials, staff supporting those elected officials, and lobbyists who attempt to influence elected officials and shape public policy. We will travel to Washington, DC, for three days in order to get an up close and personal look at national politics in action via a range of Brooks School alumni, alumnae, and friends who “do” politics for a living. Along the way, we will explore the intersection of idealism and pragmatism, and perhaps uncover some of the keys to turning dissonance into harmony and polarization into collaboration. Ultimately, it is our hope that these few weeks provide opportunities for all of us to become better citizens in the many communities we are a part of.

## Italian Art and Culture: Traditions and Innovations

*Instructors: B. Wheelden and E. DiAngelo*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$450*

***New York City Travel Dates: Sunday, January 14-Monday, January 15***

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 painting/Sgraffito techniques with Mrs. Wheelden and visiting artist Robert Freeman or Natalie Blake, 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. 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 an opera and see Italian art, will supplement our time in the Center for the Arts and Robert Lehman Art Center Gallery. (Trip to Italy March 6-15 for all students who enroll in this course. See Mrs. Wheelden for information.)

## Mock Trial

*Instructors: J. Hayes and E. Krahn*

*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.

## Passion to Pass it On

*Instructors: L. Miller, A. Medved, M. Porrazzo*

*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.

## Raku 4.0: Hotter than Ever

*Instructors: T. Smith, L. McLoughlin, C. Slaby*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$300*

***Snow Farm Trip Dates: Tuesday, January 16-Thursday, January 18***

Under the guidance of professional potter Laura Nichols, 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 we will take a 3-day trip to Snow Farm in western Massachusetts, where 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](#), [Saggur](#), [Horse Hair Raku](#) and other techniques as time allows.

## Spill the T

*Instructors: K. Nam and K. McDowell*

*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 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.

## Stranger Things Have Happened: A Guide to Becoming a Dungeon Master

*Instructors: L. Davis*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Have you seen Stranger Things? Do you know what Vox Machina or Critical Role is? Have you heard of the acronyms D&D, DM or GM in the context of dice rolling? If you answered yes (or no) to any of those questions, this might be the Winter Term for you! You will learn how to play a role playing game (rpg) similar to Dungeons and Dragons (D&D) where you will create the fantasy world and send unsuspecting victims- I mean adventurers, into clever ambushes, silly hijinx, and other traps located in your own made-up fantasy world. 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. You will learn how to be a DM (dungeon master) by creating your own “one-shot” game that others in the group will play. This whimsical option is not for the faint of heart! So join us and roll the dice...if you dare!

## Strength and Conditioning

*Instructors: J. Price and C. MacKenzie*

*Course Type: Half Day*

*Can be paired with American Dog or Environmental Justice*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Students would learn about the history, science, philosophy types and career/businesses of the strength & conditioning industry. Goals of the course would be to learn basic exercise technique, basic physiology and anatomy, basic kinesiology, different avenues to become a strength & conditioning professional, and to learn about different facilities and philosophies of strength & conditioning. Students will be expected to perform the workout of the day. The final project of the course is to create a workout plan for a team or a fellow student in the class.



## **“Subversive Stitches”: Activism and Service Through Textile Art**

*Instructor: M. Musto*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Service*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Throughout history groups silent in the written record have used textile and fiber craft as a way to voice their thoughts and ideas and to help their community. In US History, African American women in the 19th century produced amazing quilts that helped to convey their ideas in a time when they were silent in the official written record. Later activists created the AIDS quilt to give voice to the thousands of men and women who died unheard due to AIDS. Today, people in Latin America are using embroidery to speak out against violence towards women using a traditionally female craft. This is just a snapshot of the many ways people have used textile crafts to find their voice. In this class, we will explore the use of crocheting, quilting and embroidery as activism and forms of service both in the past and today. We will also learn basic embroidery, quilting, and crocheting techniques to allow each student to bring their own craftivism and service projects to life at the conclusion of the course. Each student will donate at least one piece to a worthy cause to benefit the world. Join us to explore textile and fiber arts in a creative way to speak, bring attention to an issue of your choice and better serve your community whether it is climate change, racial justice, women’s rights or any issue you feel needs your voice.

## **Surf’s Up**

*Instructors: L. McCain, R. Dobbins, S. Bery*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Service*

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

***Costa Rica Travel Dates: Thursday, January 11-Friday, January 19***

Surf’s Up explores the history, culture and evolution of surfing globally. We will touch on environmental and ecological considerations, bathymetry, meteorology, and the physics of waves. We will talk about Costa Rica as a country – the culture of Pura Vida, the health and wellness of the citizens of Costa Rica. This winter term will focus on an immersive experience within a well known surfing destination. Students will learn basic Spanish to help navigate and communicate effectively. There is a service component where we will volunteer at the Del Mar Academy Montessori school, working with children on their campus. Students will complete the build out of a wooden surfboard and learn about sustainable building and the importance of the use of sustainable materials in an industry that utilizes oil predominantly.

## The Mindful Brooks Student: Boost Well-Being & Build the Life You Want

*Instructors: C. Clater, G. Dobbins*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: +\$300*

***Travel Dates: TBC***

Bring your whole self to this course where we will learn the practice of mindfulness. We will experience diverse approaches to mindfulness through all our senses and foster a lifelong practice to bring optimism, kindness and gratitude into our lives and the lives of those around you. Some activities we will engage in are: walking in nature, snowshoeing, yoga, mindful eating, journaling, learning from practitioners, and creating a mindfulness space on campus. We will be going off campus during the school day for many of these activities and we will have a two-night trip to a mindfulness center.

## Titanic: LIVE!

*Instructors: C. Davis, S. Spollett*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

On April 10, 1912, the HMS Titanic set sail from England towards New York City. She would never arrive. At the time, Titanic was the largest ship ever built, and was considered by many to be unsinkable. The story of the ill-fated journey of the HMS Titanic was told in 1997 with the release of James Cameron's masterpiece, Titanic. Titanic was, at the time, the most expensive movie ever made and was both critically and commercially successful – winning many awards, including the Academy Award for Best Picture and going to be one of the highest grossing films of all time. The film catapulted its two lead actors, Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, into superstardom. The film is not only a historical drama, but also a tale of epic romance within the context of a disaster thriller.

In this winter term class, we will put on a live action parody performance of the movie *Titanic* in its 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.

## To the Moon and Beyond

*Instructor: M. Dixon*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course is designed to give an overview of the basics of Astronomy, Astrophysics and Rocketry and explore the history of these three areas, while taking a trip to local area telescopes and possibly other outings like the Center for Astrophysics (Harvard). Students will also explore how Astronomy impacts and connects with them and their voice. The impact of many cultures and women and men to rocketry and Astronomy will be discussed. How we can support others in the full Eclipse zone in the US April 8, 2024, will also be discussed and encouraged.

## Walking Boston

*Instructors: P. Willis, A. Wang, B. Clark*

*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.

## Winter in New England

*Instructors: D. Coriale*

*Course Type: Full Day*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Inquiry*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

This course 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 fishing, and hockey games, and explore the historical forms of cuisine and industries that New Englanders pursued in the coldest months. In the classroom, we will consider the poetry and art that New England winters have inspired, and examine the climate models of past and future winters. 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.

## Winter One Act

*Instructors: A. Campbell and B. Kelly*

*Course Type: Half Day*

*Can be paired with American Dog or Environmental Justice*

*Immersive Learning Skill: Adventure*

*Expected Student Cost: \$*

Have you always wanted to get on stage but never had the time? Join us for a half-day in the black box-theater, where students will contribute to the development and portrayal of their own characters in one-act performance! Along with Mr. Campbell and Ms. Kelly, students will create, rehearse and perform in front of friends and family on a selected evening in January. While the premise and idea of the play will be developed ahead of time, students will be able to add elements to the story line, incorporate humor and be part of the production. No prior acting experience is required!

## Winter Term Independent

*Advisor: J. McDonough*

*Course Type: Half Day or 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 Tuesday, October 10.**

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