

# Gray Matter Fall 2018 - Course Catalog

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## Tuesday Only

### Advanced Composition

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays Only

**Class Time:** 10:45 am – 12:15 pm

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$756.00

\$0

**Description:**

This class prepares students for the essay writing they'll be expected to do in college, whether they're going into the Natural Sciences, Liberal Arts, or Fine Arts. Students will practice various forms of writing, with a focus on analysis/research papers. They'll learn various techniques for essay-planning, draft-writing, and self-revision; as well as how to use vocabulary and grammar to best express themselves.

The class will provide thought-provoking material in the form of literature, philosophy, science, and film; we will have weekly discussions of this material which helps students gain new perspectives on the material, influencing their own thoughts. Students will learn to thoroughly analyze this material and codify their thoughts in the form of essays. This combination of reading, writing, and discussion will develop time-management skills and the courage to participate, essential skills for success in college. They will also have the opportunity to write about themselves and their own interests which is how one produces exceptional college applications.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

Students can expect to spend 2–5 hours per week, depending on student pace.

**Class Materials:**

All the material we read/watch in class is freely available online. I encourage students to buy copies of the books so its easier to markup and bring to class, but they are not required.

Bound composition book or something else preferred to take notes in  
Pens/pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet (for note taking)

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$756.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$378 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$378 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$84. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$84 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

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### African American History – The Harlem Renaissance

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 9:30 – 10:45 am

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

This class introduces students to the variety of cultural expressions that came to be celebrated as "the Harlem Renaissance." This era is best known for literary styles that defined African American scholarship and urban life in the decades between the World Wars. The textbook will provide social history of the era through photographs and sound clips, and offers access to a range of poems, novel excerpts, news articles, visual arts and memoirs that help bring early Harlem back to life. (suitable for Middle and High school levels)

**Class format:** Class discussion based on lecture, slides and media clips presented by Karen Minzer. Throughout the semester, students will experience some of the significant music, theater, speeches, visual arts, and fashion trends of the era. The assignments will help relate these artistic expressions to their historical context, tracing the continuing legacy of the Harlem Renaissance in American popular culture.

**Evaluations:** Tests will be multiple choice and brief essay responses.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** **Textbooks:** Wintz, Cary. *Harlem Speaks: A Living History of the Harlem Renaissance*. Naperville, IL: Sourcebooks MediaFusion, 2006. ISBN: 978-1402204364

**Textbook (additional for High School-level students):** Langston Hughes, "The Big Sea".

Bound composition book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet

The supply fee of \$10 allows the teacher to provide resources and materials.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

## American History

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:45 pm

**Duration:** 1.75 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$756.00

\$10

**Description:**

What is America? The culmination of the European Enlightenment, a nation of immigrants, a new world empire, the center of innovation and discovery, the land of the free? The question has a different answer depending on who you asked, and when. In this class we study the history that's shaped these ideas, from discovery, colonization, and Revolution, to Civil War and Reconstruction, to World War I and Prohibition, to Great Depression and World War II, to Cold War and the Digital Age.

Students learn to thoroughly research various topics on their own, and to form a whole picture from various scraps of sometimes-contradictory accounts. Students will present their research to the class in weekly discussions where we'll discuss the discovered material and the research methods used to find it.

**Prerequisites:** None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** 3-ring binder devoted to this class only  
Notebook paper  
Pens/pencils  
Colored pencils  
Internet access at home for homework assignments

No textbook is required.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$756.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$378 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$378 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$84. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$84 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

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## Computer Programming

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays Only

**Class Time:** 2:45 – 4:00 pm

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$702.00

\$0

**Description:**

Have you ever wondered how a computer works? We use computers everyday, but for many they remain a black box, a magical device which can display images and video, play music and games, hold all our data and send it out over the Internet. If you learned how the magic behind this machine worked you could do anything imaginable! Fortunately, computers are not actually mysterious, in fact, they are quite simple; all they do is a bit of math and logic, which anyone can learn.

Our class focuses on learning how the parts of a computer work. Some of these parts you have heard about, Central Processing Unit (CPU), Random Access Memory (RAM), Storage (HardDrive); however others may be totally new: register, cache, arithmetical-logic-unit, memory-management-unit. You learn how to manipulate these parts to do what you want them to by programming: the art of transforming data. We cover everything from the lowest level of how electricity flows thru the computer, to the highest level where we can speak to the computer in human-designed programming languages.

The first semester is focused on becoming familiar with a computer, and how we interact with it to write and run programs. The second semester moves on to building more advanced programs by interfacing with the operating system and drawing 2D graphics to the screen.

You will learn about:

- The C programming language
- The logic implemented in circuits and how we use it to move and transform data.
- Data structures, how we organize and think about data in the computer's memory.
- How to think about problems mathematically, and represent processes in an algorithmic way.

Some example projects:

- Simple games such as tic-tac-toe, rock-paper-scissors, connect4
- Random number generators
- Text adventures
- Sentence, image, and music generators
- Conway's Game of Life
- 2D video games!

Students will have access to video lectures which cover the topics. Class time will be spent asking questions, experimenting with computers, discussing ideas with classmates, and showing off projects. There will be weekly assignments which students are expected to be to complete before class.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:**

Every student is expected to have a dedicated computer on which they can program. I recommend the Raspberry Pi 3, as they're much cheaper than other computers, and are easy to experiment with. In addition to the computer they'll also need a monitor, keyboard, and mouse.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$702.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$351 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$351 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$78. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$78 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

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## Ludology (Fall semester)

**Teacher:** Collin Eye

**Grades:** 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 4:00 – 5:00 pm

**Duration:** 1 hour per week, 16 weeks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$270.00

\$0

**Description:**

This class will meet for the Fall semester and may continue in the Spring.

This class can serve as a high school elective, or a humanities credit.

Games such as Chess and Go have been with us for ages, but computers have given games a new expressive ability to explore ideas and tell stories only possible in an interactive medium. It's important to think critically about any media we consume, and while we have a rich history of doing this with literature, art, music, and film, far too little thought is put into how and what video games communicate.

We play and discuss several genres of games, each type offering unique perspectives:

Games that

- \* improve problem solving and critical thinking,
- \* present thought experiments about how time and space behave
- \* foster a sense of empathy by taking on other roles in life,
- \* allow experimenting with the consequences of one's actions
- \* require planning and strategic thinking
- \* explore themes of choice and fate

Students will do "close readings" of games and analyze how the game communicates ideas thru the mechanics of play. We will play and discuss games in class, and there will be weekly assignments of videos, lectures, or writings on games. Students will also write several analysis papers on these games.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

1-3 hours since they'll have some writing/reading/watching assignments.

**Class Materials:**

None

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$270.00 due at time of Fall registration, since this is only a Fall semester class.
2. Monthly payments of \$68. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$68 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1. No tuition is due in December.

## World History thru Art (Tuesday)

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesdays Only

**Class Time:** 1:00 – 2:30 pm

**Duration:** 1.5 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$720.00

\$10

**Description:**

This course combines an introduction to masterpieces of Art History and World History. Art monuments, from the Renaissance to the modern period, are presented alongside the development of European political theater and world-wide colonialization through 20<sup>th</sup> century wars. Works by Michelangelo, Rembrandt, the Impressionists, van Gogh, Picasso, and many other artists are combined with discussion in the context of their historical and social setting. Suitable for both Middle School and High School, as essay assignments are tailored to individualized interests. Laptop or ipad are suggested for notes.

**Class format:** Slide-illustrated lectures, student presentations and class discussion of textbooks.

**Evaluations:** Brief essay topics will be assigned to each students to share in class, based on their personal interests. Exams will consist of slide identifications, comparisons, brief essays explaining the significance of the artworks and events, multiple choice, short answer questions, and extra credit. Blue Book required.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:** Students can expect to spend 1-3 hours per week.

**Class Materials:** **Textbook:** Robert Strayer, *Ways of the World*, Vol. 2, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition ISBN-13: 978-0312583491  
**Textbook:** Cole, Bruce. *The Informed Eye: Understanding Masterpieces of Western Art*. Lanham, MD: Ivan R. Dee, 1999

Bound composition book  
Blue Book  
Colored pencils  
Pens, pencils  
Optional: Laptop or Tablet

NOTE: The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of this *Ways of the World* is much less expensive.

**Payment Options:**

1. Full tuition of \$720.00 due at time of registration.
2. Semester tuition of \$360 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$360 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
3. Monthly payments of \$80. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$80 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.

## Yoga & Creative Writing (High School)

**Teacher:** Karen Minzer

**Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Class Schedule:** Tuesday Only

**Class Time:** 2:45 – 4:00 pm

**Duration:** 1.25 hours per week, 32 wks

**Fee(s):**

**Full Tuition**

**Supply Fee**

\$630.00

\$20

**Description:**

This course offers basic instruction in the systemized study of yoga asana and breathing practice. A brief survey in history of world literary traditions for contemplative writing will enhance students' observation skills and self-confidence. Writing exercises and literary readings will focus on details of images as metaphor for thought.

**Format:** 30 minutes guided yoga practice, 15 minutes writing, 30 minutes student reading and discussion. A final group writing exercise completes the class, recorded by Instructor. Assignments for reading and writing exercises precede each class.

**Dress:** Loose clothing suitable for flexible movement. No skirts or dresses.

**Prerequisites:**

None

**Homework:**

A monthly portfolio is delivered in packets of 7 pages of creative work generated in and out of class. Final Portfolio consists of 20 pages of revised and polished work, generated from class and out of class assignments. Additionally, each student will take turns facilitating an individualized yoga class as a final exam in yoga. One critical response paper.

**Class Materials:**

Yoga mat *and* blanket. Additional props will be provided by instructor.  
In class writing journal exclusive to this class. Device use acceptable for writing and reading.

**Payment Options:**

4. Full tuition of \$630.00 due at time of registration.
5. Semester tuition of \$315 due at time of registration and second semester payment of \$315 due by January 15<sup>th</sup>
6. Monthly payments of \$70. First month is due at time of registration. Subsequent monthly payments of \$70 on 9/1, 10/1, 11/1, 12/1, 1/1, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1. No tuition is due in May.